



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/JANUARY 2015/VOL 51 NO 1

HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG

Field Trips

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Saturday, January 3 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Jackie King (Email: jackie.king@ccd.edu Phone: 720-381-3314)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about 0.75 mile and turn right (west) on 44th Ave. Go one mile west.

Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south). Meet just inside the park in the lot right next to Prospect Lake.

Bring water and snacks and we will see what we can scare up. Ducks, gulls, finches, sparrows, raptors to be expected with waxwings and nuthatches possible.

You never know what will be sheltering in this tree rich area.

Continued on page 2



Renew your DFO membership now to stay in the loop for 2015! Visit dfobirders.org or see the back page of this newsletter.



Robert J. Niedrach mounting a turkey for an early diorama at the DMNS, 1913.



Colorado Bird Club field trip, 1935. "Wounded Great Blue Heron"

DFO is 80 Years Old!

Kris Haglund

On January 27, 2015, the Denver Field Ornithologists (Colorado Bird Club) turns 80 years old.

This is a remarkable feat for any all-volunteer organization, but is surely a testament to its leadership through the decades and the fact that it fills a niche and meets an ongoing need.

It all began with Robert J. Niedrach. Bob came to Denver from his home state of New Jersey in 1910 and a couple of years later became the assistant to Frederick C. Lincoln, then Curator of Ornithology at the Colorado Museum of Natural History (now known as the Denver Museum of Nature & Science).

Lincoln left the Museum in 1920 to join the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey to run that agency's bird banding program, but was a strong mentor for Niedrach.

Bob remained at the Museum until his retirement in 1970 serving as Curator of Ornithology, supervising the installation of over 50 of the Museum's ecological dioramas, and authoring and co-authoring publications on the birds of Colorado.

Continued on page 2

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

Cañon City

Sunday, January 4

6:30 AM - 6:30 PM

Christie Owens (Email: christiel@q.com Phone: 303-772-6048)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 7

Directions: Meet at the Yale Station Park-n-Ride at 5315 East Yale Ave, Denver.

Join the leader to look for sparrows, finches, waterfowl, other winter residents, and hopefully some surprises.

Be sure to bring snacks, lunch, water, scopes, binocs, and dress for the weather.

Realize this is a full-day trip. Come prepared to share a ride so we have only 2 cars of which to keep track. (\$0.30 per mile divided by the number of people in the car.)

East 88th and South Platte River (Adams County)

Sunday, January 11

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Mark Amershek (Email: mammershek@msn.com Phone: 303-329-8646)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the parking lot just south of the intersection of 88th and Colorado Blvd. Bruce Neumann is the guest leader on this trip.

We will look for ducks, hawks, falcons, and whatever else that may fly in. Please dress for the weather. Sunscreen suggested.

We will walk on maintained trails up to 2 miles. Nearest restrooms are at the 7-11 just north across the street from the meeting location.

Continued on next page

DFO IS 80 YEARS OLD! continued from page 1



Colorado Bird Club members. Image from article "Bird Club Is Unique & Individual Organization," *Denver Post*, August 22, 1937. Left to right: Ruth Wheeler, vice president; William S. Green Jr.; Clara C. Tate, president; Ferd C. Kleinschnitz, field trip chairman; and Elizabeth Swan.

to Bob, names suggested for the group were The Robert J. Niedrach Bird Club, The Robert J. Niedrach Ornithology Club, and The Robert J. Niedrach Nature Club.

But Bob, ever humble, thought a more general name would be preferable so, after much discussion, the Colorado Bird Club was named.

Dr. Niedrach probably would be surprised to know that the organization he inspired and helped found in 1935 would still be in existence and thriving today, but there is no doubt that he would be proud and pleased to know that successive generations continue to care and want to learn about birds and their environment.

The early minutes of the Colorado Bird Club have been digitized and can be found at <<http://dfobirds.org/DFO/History.aspx>>. There you also will find other articles about the history of the DFO.

Above all, Niedrach was passionate about educating young people and adults about ecology, the environment, and birds and had extensive knowledge of plant and animal life, which he was always eager to share.

His 1934 course on birds, which he taught at the University of Denver, inspired his students to such a degree that a new organization took root. In tribute

Thank you for your contribution to the Research, Education, and Conservation Grant Fund: Renee and Dan Brachear, Frances Campbell, Robert Canter, John Dwyer, Von Fransen, Peggy Gonder, Georgia Hart, Marjorie Jannotta and Chuck Hundertmark, Kristina Koff, Judy Lane, Beth Madden and Kathanne Lynch, Robert Righter, Niña Routh, Paul Slingsby, Sue Summers, Bobbi Vollmer, Liz and Lynn Willcockson

Frances Sperl: 1943–2014

Diane Luck

How do you thank someone who has taken you from House Sparrow to Resplendent Quetzal?

Frances Sperl ignited my birding obsession on a trip to Peru in 1999. While floating on a tributary of the Amazon River, a tree full of hoatzins added to the enjoyment of pink dolphins and sloths.

Perhaps I should keep a list? Four thousand birds and five continents later, I have Frances to thank for this enduring passion.

Many DFO members have delighted in birding with Frances: her good humor, enthusiasm at 4 a.m., her equal joy of seeing a Yellow-rumped or Cape May Warbler.

We are of the printed field guide and binocular generation. Frances and I have shivered in the early morning cold to see the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and sweltered in Amazonia awaiting a macaw fly-by, loving every experience together.

Frances leaves behind a flock of admiring grandchildren, nieces and nephews, all of whom have received birthday gift binoculars and an appreciation of the natural world. We hope they join the group of bionic-eared kids, reviewing the digital transmission feed from their personal drones hovering above a lek, if any are left.

I will hear her special flight call in cranes and treasure her chip note in my memory. Services were held on November 21 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette. *Auf Wiedersehen, meine freunde.*



Northern Shrike hunting in Golden under feeder, November 16, 2014. Kay Niyo

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)

Sunday, January 11

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP. From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir. State Parks pass or day pass required.

This is a half-day trip passing through many important habitats in 3 miles. Trails could be slippery, so dress accordingly. Bring water and snacks; lunch optional.

Beginning birders welcome.

Chatfield State Park

Saturday, January 17

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Edmund J Holub (Email: edmund.holub@gmail.com Phone: 303-979-2194)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet inside west entrance of park off S Wadsworth, 1.5 miles south of C-470.

A half-day traipse around Chatfield SP looking for winter residents: finches, hawks, waterfowl, and sparrows to name a few.

Bring binocs, scopes, water, snacks if needed, and dress for the predicted weather. State Parks pass required.

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 5

Barr Lake State Park Sunday, January 18 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Chuck Hundertmark (Email: chundertmark8@gmail.com
Phone: 303-604-0531)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at parking lot at the south end of Lark Bunting Lane (note: this is not the usual Barr Lake SP meeting place).

From the Bromley Lane exit off I-76, drive east on E 152nd Ave across the railroad tracks and take an immediate right onto Lark Bunting Lane.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

Expect raptors, sparrows, snipe, and often a surprise.

Allenspark and Lyons Combined Trip Saturday, January 24 8:00 AM - 3:21 PM

Niña Routh & Mike Seruto (Email: nrouth@copper.net
Phone: 303-987-8687)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: We plan on carpooling from two locations so be prepared for riding as well as driving.

At 8 AM early birders meet at the southwest side of the Wagon Road RTD Park-n-Ride, 120th Ave and Huron (less than 0.5 miles west of I-25).

At 8:40 AM other birders can meet us at Lyons Park-n-Ride at Sandstone Park, 555 4th Ave in Lyons.

Join the leaders for the annual trip to Allenspark to look for rosy-finches and other winter residents.

Then travel to Lyons for lunch

Continued on next page

Last Month's Program: *Rackets & Ruins*

Tim Johnson

On November 24th, we were treated to DFO President Chuck Hundertmark's summary of his recent trip to the Yucatan with Paul Slingsby ("Rackets and Ruins: Birding Mexico's Yucatan in the Anthropocene").

Chuck's wistful use of the term Anthropocene—an as-yet informal definition of a geologic epoch characterized by significant human influence on global ecosystems, chronologically overlapping the Holocene (ca 12,000 yr BP to present)—reflects his frequent visits to the area since 1991, which has allowed him to observe the explosive growth of tourism in the region.

Even so, the birding is awesome, as reflected in eBird species counts for the Yucatan provinces (Campeche: 421; Yucatan: 408; Quintana Roo: 420).

Chuck's excellent photographs should be put online in some form. Their trip took them from the touristy east coast of Quintana Roo, south and west to the less-visited areas of Calakmul and Chicanna ruins, and finally a dash north to Rio Lagartos Biosphere Preserve on Yucatan's north coast.

Chuck first described birding the unabashedly Anthropocene resort of Puerto Aventuras about an hour south of Cancun.

He birded there with his wife, Marjorie, in February 2013 and 2014. He found an Indian Coral Tree where Orchard, Hooded, Orange, and Altamira Orioles (4/8 of Mexico's oriole species) were feeding along with Melodious Blackbirds.

Other resort birds were the Rufous-browed Peppershrike (on a golf course) and Yucatan Jay.

Farther south, at the ruins at Tu-

lum, Paul and Chuck found Mangrove and Yucatan Vireos, and were alerted by a overenthusiastic birder to the presence of "Greater Antillean Grackles," which turned out to be molting Great-tailed Grackles.

Thirty miles west of Tulum lies Coba Lake and its associated ruins, mostly unexcavated and thus heavily forested.

Mayan ruins are great for birders, because they provide edges between forested and nonforested areas, and you have a chance to see birds for more than a millisecond.

At Coba they struck gold: at the lake—Limpkin, Snail Kite, Yellow-winged Tanager, and out-of-range Blue-gray Tanager; at the ruins—Black-headed and Gartered (Violetaceous) Trogon (both great photos), and Red-throated Ant-Tanager and Ruddy Woodcreeper, both associated with ant swarms.

South of Tulum, they visited the Muyl ruins and the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve.

Dramatic pictures here were of the Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture and the Black-cowled Oriole.

Braving heavy bicycle traffic along the Vigia Chico Camino in the Reserve, they spotted Red-billed Pigeon (which Candice and I searched for in vain recently in south Texas), and the beautiful Yellow-throated Euphonia.

Heading west to less-frequented areas, Chuck and Paul visited the Biosphere Reserve at Calakmul and the Chicanna ruins in the Rio Bec area.

Here they had another opportunity for ant swarm birding in the rainforest.

Chuck observed that many spe-

Continued on page 5

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM, continued from page 4

cies other than the usual (ant-bird) suspects engage in this activity, and provided evidence for the Ivory-billed Woodcreeper and (thieving) Squirrel Cuckoo.

Woodcreepers in general—there are a lot of them—seem to like feeding on insects driven into peril by army ant swarms.

At the Calakmul ruins themselves, they encountered Ocellated Turkeys among many other species, and snapped a gorgeous shot of a Laughing Falcon.

Last stop was the Rio Lagartos Biosphere Reserve on the north coast of Yucatan province.

Uncharacteristically hiring a guide, they found aquatic species (e.g., Wood Stork, Boat-billed Heron) and others (Black-headed Saltator, American Pygmy Kingfisher).

My favorite pictures from this locale were of the King Vulture and Spot-breasted Wren.

Although their route seemed perfect for finding avian biodiversity, it must have been exhausting.

Chuck recommended that if you go, choose only one province. Choose your time carefully (summer: birds breeding, rainy season, hot and humid; October to December: start of dry season, fruits and berries abundant, but leaves still present; January to April: peak dry season, few leaves, many tourists).

Recommended guide: *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America* by Steve N.G. Howell and Sophie Webb.

And by Chuck's order: record your trip on eBird!

Nearby Christmas Bird Counts

Barr Lake Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, January 4, 2014

Chuck Hundertmark, Compiler (303-604-0531, <chundertmark8@gmail.com>)

Meet at Old Stone House (RMBO Headquarters) at 7 a.m. to organize for field activity. The headquarters is at the south end of Lark Bunting Lane in Brighton. Coffee, hot cocoa, tea, and donuts will be available as we organize for the count. Participants can register online (preferred) at <<http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>> or contact Chuck Hundertmark.

Douglas County Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, January 3, 2015

Nancy Crews, Count Compiler (303-842-2833, <NBCrews46@msn.co>)

Birders of all abilities are invited to join the 2014 annual Douglas County Christmas Bird Count. Please call Roxborough State Park Visitor Center at 303-973-3959 by December 31, 2014 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to be placed on a team. Contact Nancy Crews with questions.

Team leaders will contact you about time and place to meet. At 4:00 p.m. after the count birders will meet at Roxborough State Park for a compilation and chili dinner and potluck. There is a \$2 charge for chili. Birders are asked to bring a side dish to share.

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

at the Oskar Blues Restaurant (online menu available).

After lunch we will poke around Lyons for any resident birds in the cemetery or other available areas.

Contact Niña or Mike by phone if you have questions or changes in plans due to weather or other circumstances.

Bring two-way radios if you have them and dress for winter conditions as predicted.

By Monday, Jan. 19th, please let Niña know if you are staying for lunch so she can make reservations at the restaurant.

Red Rocks Park

Sunday, January 25

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Chris Rurik (Email: chrisrurik@gmail.com Phone: 253-225-7104)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 20

Directions: Meet at the Trading Post parking lot at Red Rocks Park. Call for directions if this location is unfamiliar to you.

We will be viewing the Trading Post feeders before the park gets busy and hope for views of Golden-crowned Sparrow and possibly rosy-finches if it is snowy.

We will walk around Red Rocks Park looking for typical foothills species.

We will also visit Lair O' the Bear Park to look for American Dippers, Pygmy Nuthatches, and other mountain species.

Dress for the weather; bring binoculars and field guides. Up to 2 miles of walking on well-maintained trails.

Continued on page 6

Field Trips

Continued from page 5

Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat/Sawhill (Boulder County) Saturday, January 31 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Paula Hansley (Email: plhansley@gmail.com Phone: 720-890-2628)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: From northbound U.S. 36, take Foothill Parkway exit. Go north 2 miles to Arapahoe Ave, then east to 75th St. Go north on 75th St past Valmont Rd and railroad tracks.

Turn left at Wildlife Habitat sign. Follow road west and south to Cottonwood Marsh parking lot.

The trip will involve walking 1 to 2 miles on level ground. Dress in layers and bring a small pack. Bring a snack and something to drink.

Call the leader if there is any doubt about whether the trip will "go."

We will look at waterfowl at the various lakes at Walden and Sawhill Open Space areas, so bring a scope if you have one.

We will also look for the resident Great Horned Owls and hawks. At 75th St and Boulder Creek, we should find dippers and perhaps a lingering Ruby-crowned Kinglet or Yellow-rumped Warbler.

—Scheduled by Chris Owens

Renew your DFO membership for 2015!

Renew online at <<http://dfobirds.org>> with your credit card, or by filling out and mailing the application on the back page.

Detail-loving volunteers needed: Delve into DFO history on the website!

The DFO will mark its 80th anniversary beginning in January 2015. In partial celebration of this remarkable event, Historian Kris Haglund is looking for a few good volunteers to assist with the special project of digitizing the organization's meeting minutes covering about seven decades.

You can choose the years you want, beginning with the 1950s! You'll be amazed at all you'll learn and how interesting this history is.

Volunteers must love detail and be committed to accuracy. Since almost all of the minutes are handwritten, volunteers should also have a computer and be proficient with word processing software. Kris will provide you with a digital or hard copy of the originals, depending on your preference. You can work from home at your convenience. The hope would be to complete this project by the end of 2015. It can be done with your help!

What will happen to these transcribed minutes? They are being uploaded to the new DFO website at <<http://dfobirds.org/DFO/History.aspx>> for access by DFO members and researchers. These minutes are a great historical record that will inform all future board members, assist researchers to understand the history of birding in Colorado, and provide a ready database for those members who are just curious.

If interested, please contact Kris Haglund at <kahaglund1@aol.com> or 303-906-8044.

Call for 2015 DFO grant applications

Candice Johnson

The DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Fund is now accepting applications for grants to encourage the study, appreciation, and preservation of birds and their habitats. Preference will be given to projects in the Denver metropolitan area, the Front Range, the state of Colorado, and the USA, in that order.

Awards typically range from \$500 to \$2000. Recent past grants have included grants to purchase binoculars for a grade school, support research on prairie management, promote bird breeding success, and repair the bird habitat at Last Chance, Colorado.

Proposals should include a description of goals, a methodology, a complete budget including other funding sources, and an indication of any completed preliminary work.

It is expected that successful grantees will provide a report on their project to be published in *The Lark Bunting* newsletter and on the DFO website, lead a field trip to the research site, or make a presentation at the monthly meeting.

An application form and a history of past grants awarded are available on the website <<http://dfobirds.org>> under About DFO, Research, Education and Conservation Fund.

Deadline for applications is February 1, 2015. Notification of awards will be made soon after.

Denver Urban Christmas Count

Thursday, January 1, 2015

Count Leader/Compiler: Hugh Kingery (303-814-2723)

Compilation (and potluck) meeting: 5 p.m., Casey Davenport's home, 415 South High St. (5 blocks west of University Ave., about 2 blocks south of Alameda).

Please call Urling (303-814-2723) so we can count you in on the chili pot, Urling's brownies, Casey's hospitality, and your salad, dessert, veggie, or finger foods.

A holiday tradition—everyone welcome: beginners, intermediate, and advanced. The more eyes we have, the more birds we see. And we like to encourage people to get involved.

Start the New Year with a half-day or whole-day effort—a good way to start your New Year's List!

The count covers a 15-mile diameter circle that includes the Platte River from north Denver city limits

to Mississippi St., west to Buckley Field and Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

The "count circle" is subdivided into 14 "count areas" each with a leader. Area locations and names and phone numbers of Area Leaders are listed below.

Participants should contact Area Leaders for meeting times and places on count day, Thursday, January 1.

Area Location	Leader	Phone
South Platte (south) (to Confluence Park, some walking)	Doris Cruze	303-798-8072
South Platte (central) (Confluence Park to Riverside Cemetery, some walking)	Casey Davenport	303-744-0613
South Platte (north) (walking)	Dick Schottler	303-278-8035
Lower Sand Creek/Commerce City/Montbello (some walking)	Mike Serruto	303-377-9870
Aurora, Tollgate Creek, Upper Sand Creek/ Bluff Lake (walking)	Buzz Schaumburg	303-478-4641
Cherry Creek, dam to University Blvd. (7-mile walk)	Paul Slingsby <paslingsby@comcast.net>	303-422-3728
Cherry Creek Res. (some walking)	Bob Brown <PicaPica@att.net>	303-791-6204
SE Denver, N/Hampden (walking)	Mary Keithler <mkeithler@gmail.com>	303-771-1421 303-941-7009 cell
Kent School, S/Hampden (some walking)	Lynn Willcockson	303-757-7000
City Park/Park Hill (car, some walking)	Kevin Corwin	720-482-8454
Botanic Gardens, Wash. Park	Marilyn Rhodes	303-674-9895
Denver Country Club (car, some walking)	Bob Santangelo	303-477-1367
Rocky Mtn. Arsenal (car, some walking)	Urling Kingery	303-814-2723
Fairmont, Lowry Field (car, some walking)	Tuesday Birders	303-979-6211
Denver Zoo	Brad Parks	Closed

61st Denver Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 20, 2014

Count Leader/Compiler: Joey Kellner (303-978-1748), <vireo1@comcast.net>

Feeder Coordinator: Joey Kellner, *please send list to Denver CBC, 9500 S Estes Way, Littleton, CO 80127*

Potluck Coordinator: Cheryl Teuton (303-912-3341), Please call her with what dish you can bring.

Compilation (and potluck) meeting: 5 p.m., Chatfield State Park Headquarters (south side of the lake near the Heronry Overlook); **State Parks vehicle entry pass required**. Please carpool if possible. Ask your Area Leader about Compiler's offer for reimbursement.

All are encouraged to participate in the annual Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) sponsored the National Audubon Society. To participate, call one of the Area Leaders listed below to assist in a particular area, or call the Count Compiler (contact info above) if you would like to help in an area that still needs additional observers. After a day in the field, all participants are invited to attend the compilation meeting to feast, warm up, chat with other birders, and find out how the count fared. It is a lot of fun. The compilation meeting will be at 5 p.m. (see location above). **Feel free to bring a dish or desert to share!**

Fees: None! So, no excuses! Come have a great time and help count birds! Beginners and experts all welcome!

The 15-mile diameter "count circle" is subdivided into 24 "count areas" each with a leader. Area locations and names and phone numbers of Area Leaders are listed below. Participants should contact Area Leaders for count day meeting times and places.

Area Number and Location	Area Leader	Phone Number
1. Red Rocks Park	Dan Stringer	720-854-5911
2. Lower Bear Creek	Michael Kiessig	303-909-5169
2A. Bear Creek Lake Park	Mark Amershek	303-329-8646
3. Bow Mar/Marston	Kay Niyo	303-679-6646
4A. Lower South Platte - East	Ed Holub	303-979-2194
4B. Lower South Platte - West	Dick Schottler	303-278-8035
5. Highline Ditch	Nancy Crews	303-791-8276
6. Plum Creek	Norm Erthal	303-917-2596
7A. Middle South Platte - West	Charlie Lawrence	303-795-9126
7B. Middle South Platte - East	Urling Kingery	303-814-2723
8. Chatfield State Park	Joey Kellner	303-978-1748
9. Upper South Platte *	Jill Holden	720-288-4018
10. Lower Deer Creek	Lynn Willcockson	303-757-7000
11. Upper Deer Creek	Paul Slingsby	303-422-3728
12. Yegge Peak	Ann Bonnell	303-979-6211
13. Doublehead Mountain	Amy Davis	303-549-7759
14. North Turkey Creek	Larry Modesitt	720-635-6030
15. Indian Hills	Dick Prickett	303-674-0217
16. Upper Bear Creek	Laura Steadman	843-319-5086
17. Ken Caryl Ranch	David Suddjian	831-713-8659
18. Garrison Gate	TBD	
19. Morrison/Willowbrook	Steve Stachowiak	303-791-4974
20. Willow Creek	Doris Cruze	303-798-8072
21. Mount Lindo/Willow Springs	Wayne Wathen	720-344-0158

* to participate in this area, you must contact the area leader no later than Monday, December 15th.

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016)	mamershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015)	willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016)	wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015)	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2017)	tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015)	meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2017)	zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Karen von Saltza (2017)	kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Lynn Willcockson (2017)	lynnliz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015)	wuerthel@ecentral.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund 303-906-8044 kahaglund1@aol.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS 2014

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	720-381-3314
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May	Jackie King	720-381-3314
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August	Jackie King	720-381-3314
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	720-381-3314
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

Field Trips

Karen von Saltza kvonsaltza@yahoo.com

Grants

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Web Administration (<http://dfobirds.org>)

Mary Geder	admin@dfobirds.org
Kay Niyo	admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler	mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill	d_d_hill@comcast.net

CFO Website

<http://cobirds.org>

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list cobirds@googlegroups.com

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter west door between 7 and 7:30 p.m. If late, enter through north security door. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

Nameplate photo of Lark Bunting pair by Lee Farrell

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles.

Welcome, new members:

Larry Cato, Denver; John Dwyer, Englewood; Jessica Jenner, Castle Rock; Joy Mock, Colorado Springs; Judy Zinn, Golden

Upcoming Speakers

Dave Leatherman Jan. 26
"More on What Birds Eat"

Carolyn Gunn Feb. 23
"The Latest on Black Swift
Research"

Bryan Guarente March 23
"Weather and Bird Migration"

Nathan Pieplow April 27
TBD

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 20 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 35 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting
Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742
Featured This Month
Bird Counts Galore
Goodbye, My Friend
Delve Into DFO History!



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/FEBRUARY 2015/VOL 51 NO 2

[HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG](http://dfobirds.org)

Field Trips

Barr Lake State Park Sunday, February 1 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Paul Slingsby (Email:
paslingsby@comcast.net
Phone: 303-422-3728)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at parking lot at the south end of Lark Bunting Lane (note: this is not the usual Barr Lake SP meeting place).

From the Bromley Lane exit off I-76, drive east on E 152nd Ave across the railroad tracks and take an immediate right onto Lark Bunting Lane.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

Long half-day, so bring snacks and thermos. We will walk below the dam where flowing fresh water and cottonwood trees attract many birds.

The area also has a large wetland and fields that attract sparrows and raptors.

Finally, we will get out scopes

Continued on page 2

Feed your hunger for bird knowledge

David Leatherman, forest entomologist, will be the featured speaker at the Monday, January 26, 2015 DFO meeting.

He will show us that there should be more to birding than just “what is it?” We sell ourselves and the birds short when behavior is ignored or relegated to second place below our list.

Some of the most abundant and interesting behaviors involve food acquisition. The more we know about what birds eat, the better we will be at finding, identifying, understanding, enjoying, and, ultimately, conserving them.

Continued on page 2



Ira Sanders and a Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch in his yard! *Janeal Thompson*

**Renew your DFO
membership now
to stay in the loop
for 2015!**

**Visit dfobirds.org or
see the back page
of this newsletter.**

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

and scan Barr Lake from the dam.

Northeastern Raptor Tour Saturday, February 7 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Joey Kellner (Email: vireo1@comcast.net Phone: 303-978-1748)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 7

Directions: Meet at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Office, 6060 N Broadway.

Exit I-25 at 58th Ave, go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right.

Bring lunch, water, and snacks for a full day of driving and watching raptors in the north-eastern corner of Colorado.

Call leader if going.

Cherry Creek State Park (Arapahoe County) Saturday, February 7 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Mary Keithler (Email: mkeithler@yahoo.com Phone: 303-771-1421)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at WEST entrance of Park. Go east from Yosemite St on Union Ave past Cherry Creek High School to west entrance.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

Meet leader at 8:30 and search for overwintering birds, ducks, and raptors. Bring water and snacks and dress for Colorado weather.

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt Sunday, February 8 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Kevin Corwin (Email: kevygudguy@aol.com Phone: 720-482-8454)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: From I-70 exit

Continued on next page

FEED YOUR HUNGER, continued from page 1

This presentation builds on previous programs by the presenter, who is author of the long-running feature "The Hungry Bird" of the journal *Colorado Birds*. Certain subjects of previous columns will be embellished, including *Scutigera* spp, caterpillars, snakes, and toxic plants. Favorite birds like wrens, woodpeckers, warblers, and crossbills will be celebrated.

Bring your hunger for knowledge and start 2015 with an appetite for a different slant on birding.

The DFO meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting.



Above, Cactus Wren male feeding fledgling a grasshopper, probably in the genus *Melanoplus*.
David Leatherman



Right, Mountain Bluebird with lepidopteran caterpillar. David Leatherman

DFO grant enables tripling of study's Flammulated Owl netting efforts

by Ross Calhoun and Max Ciaglo

In recent years, the Flammulated Owl has received increasing attention from a large contingent of organizations, including Partners in Flight and the U.S. and Canadian governments.

This is a product of the disjunction between their ecological importance and prominent gaps in our understanding of the species.

Where they have been intensively studied, these owls are strongly associated with old-growth pine forests that have been subjected to an anthropocentric fire regime and changing climate.

By studying the population dynamics of these owls we can develop informed forest management practices, but this requires a holistic understanding of their ecology.

Thus far, little research has been focused on habitat use and movement patterns outside the breeding season.

Flammulated Owls are long-distance migrants. Therefore, the pre-migration period has significant implications for the long-term success of these birds.

During this time, owls must exploit local food resources, storing fat for migration.

Females and fledglings will also begin to move locally, gathering information about nearby habitats



Flammulated Owl being processed. Ross Calhoun

they might utilize the following summer.

These habitats are also likely to be used by more northern populations as they migrate south.

Among long-distance migrants, determining patterns in movements and habitat use during migration is challenging, especially for small, nocturnal species such as Flammulated Owls.

In fact, the absence of Flammulated Owls from breeding areas during the winter was initially attributed to torporic behavior.

Improved monitoring efforts during migration are necessary if we hope to identify and conserve critical migratory routes and to have a broader context in which to understand larger scale population trends.

Since 1981, Dr. Brian Linkhart has been researching the demography and ecology of breeding owls on the Pike National Forest.

In 2013, we received funding from Colorado College to work under Dr.

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

267, take Kipling south about 0.75 mile and turn right (west) on 44th Ave. Go one mile west.

Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south).

Meet just inside the park in the lot right next to Prospect Lake.

Bring water and snacks and we will see what we can scare up. Ducks, gulls, finches, sparrows, raptors to be expected with waxwings and nuthatches possible.

You never know what will be sheltering in this tree rich area.

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County) Sunday, February 8 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP.

From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

This is a half-day trip passing through many important habitats in 3 miles.

Trails could be slippery, so dress accordingly. Bring water and snacks; lunch optional.

Beginning birders welcome.

South Platte River Trail at E 88th Ave and I-76 Saturday, February 14 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Mike Foster (Email: mike1.foster@comcast.net Phone: 303-456-2647)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the parking area at 88th Ave and South

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

Platte River Trail. From I-76 take E 88th Ave exit, go west on 88th for 1.6 miles, then turn south at Colorado Blvd.

Turn left again into the parking lot for the South Platte River Greenway Trailhead.

We will see plenty of ducks, a few raptors, and some hearty winter residents. Hike along paved trail and occasionally in the adjacent mud for up to three miles.

Sign up and sign waiver online.

To carpool (yes, do!), call Mike, then meet at 8:20 a.m. at SE corner of RTD lot (2nd and Routt) a few blocks east of Union Blvd.

From 6th Avenue and Union, drive south to 2nd, then turn left and enter lot near Routt.

Denver City Park
(Denver County)
Sunday, February 15
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Chuck Hundertmark (Email: chundertmark8@gmail.com
Phone: 303-604-0531)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 11

Directions: Meet at the parking strip southeast of 22nd Ave just north of Ferril Lake.

From Colorado Blvd, turn west onto 22nd Ave and go past the Museum of Nature and Science. Turn left just before the zoo at the sign to the Pavilion Bandstand.

Park on the left at the end of the parking area closest to Ferril Lake.

We'll look for wintering waterfowl and early nesting Double-crested Cormorants.

Scopes helpful. Bring water and snacks.

Continued on next page

FLAMMULATED OWL STUDY, *continued from page 3*

Linkhart's guidance and begin trapping Flammulated Owls after the breeding season.

This past fall, Denver Field Ornithologists graciously awarded us a grant, allowing us to continue our research.

In 2013, we trapped for 15 nights and a total of 80 hours and made 19 captures of 18 individual owls.

Thanks to the DFO we more than tripled our netting efforts in 2014, logging a total of 254 hours on 28 nights over a 6-week period; this resulted in 73 captures of 66 unique individuals.

This increased effort, combined with our opportunity to work with the most extensively studied breeding population of these owls, has allowed us to begin to uncover some interesting ecological relationships.

Across *both* trapping years, 15 birds—10 breeding adults and 5 fledglings—were captured at least once in *each* of the breeding and migration seasons.

While eight of these adults were initially captured during the breeding season, the other two were originally caught in the fall of 2013.

The following summer these birds were found to be nesting 1.7 km and 2.1 km away from where they were initially captured.

Our fledgling recaptures represent movements ranging from less than 1 km and up to 15 km from respective nest sites in the first 65 days after fledging.

Band returns such as these allow us to begin to compare forest usage across the breeding and migration seasons and to investigate dispersal dynamics.

The extent to which the remaining



Max Ciaglo attaches a band to a Flammulated Owl. *Ross Calhoun*



Ross Calhoun removes an owl from a mist net. *Courtesy of Michael Ciaglo and The Colorado Springs Gazette*

88 percent of our captures were migrants or local owls is a question we plan to address in subsequent years.

We aim to continue our research next fall and build a more compre-

Continued on page 5

FLAMMULATED OWL STUDY, continued from page 4

hensive picture of how Flammulated Owls use and move across the landscape during their fall migration.

Every year we learn more about the timing and magnitude of these movements, and with each new band attached or returned we add a new piece to the unique story that these birds have to tell.

In 2015 we hope to carry on with our current trapping efforts, but also to apply new techniques in order to

learn where these birds are coming from.

We thank the Colorado College Venture Fund for helping us to initiate this project and Dr. Brian Linkhart for his ongoing guidance and support.

We are truly grateful to the DFO for giving us this incredible opportunity, and we look forward to building on the strong foundation that they have helped us to create.



Measurements are taken on an owl. Ross Calhoun

Welcome, new members:

Jean Anderson, Lakewood; Debbie and Tom Behnfield, Lakewood; Mark Carson, Cambridge; Paul and Jane Derrick, Denver; Glenda and Terry Dwyer, Lakewood; Karen and Michael Fernandez, Denver; Carol Fitzgerald, Denver; Janet and A.J. Gest, Aurora; Karen Goetz, Lakewood; Steve Hebert, Denver; Debra Lentz, Denver; Patrick O'Driscoll, Denver; Richard and Cheri Phillips, Centennial; Peggy Salzer, Lakewood; Jeanette Strom, Denver; Marianne and Fred Wamboldt, Denver; Bea Weaver, Littleton; Wendy Wibbens, Englewood

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

Boulder Reservoirs (Baseline, Valmont, and Boulder)

**Saturday, February 21
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

Wendy Wibbens & Sue Summers (Email: wibbwj@aol.com Phone: 303-330-1175)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 15

Directions: Meet at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Office, 6060 N Broadway.

Exit I-25 at 58th Ave, go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right.

Join us for an exploration of Baseline, Valmont, and Boulder reservoirs and surrounding areas to search for winter waterfowl and raptors.

We will be in and out of cars with short walks up to 1/2 mile. Please bring scopes for distance viewing if you have them; we will have at least 2 to share.

Dress for winter weather and bring water, snacks, and lunch.

Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch

**Sunday, February 22
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

A.J. Gest (Email: offsetaj@comcast.net Phone: 303-994-2420)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: Located south of I-70 on Smith Road between Chambers and Airport Blvd. Address 16002 E. Smith Road.

This will be mid-winter birding in a riparian system.

We should see many of our winter residents: Black-capped Chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and raptors are a very good possibility.

No parks pass required. Dress accordingly. Bring snacks, water,

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 5

binoculars; scopes are optional. Portable toilets on site.

Time and conditions permitting and for those who are interested, we may go to Parkfield Lake to see what's floating over there after our walk.

Please sign up online or contact leader.

Butterfly Pavilion Saturday, February 28 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Jackie King (Email: jackie.king@ccd.edu Phone: 720-381-3314)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet in front of the Butterfly Pavilion at 6252 W 104th Ave.

We will begin at the Butterfly Pavilion, which costs \$9.50 for adults, \$7.50 for seniors.

If ten people sign up early enough, I can sign us up as a field trip and we can save \$2 each.

When it warms up we will walk around the Big Dry Creek Open Space trails looking for wintering sparrows, woodpeckers, and raptors.

Bring binoculars, water, and snacks. Sign up online or call leader.

—Scheduled by Jackie King

It's time to renew DFO membership for 2015!

Renew online at <<http://dfobirds.org>> with your credit card, or by filling out and mailing the application on the back page.

2015 DFO grant applications due Feb. 1

Candice Johnson

The DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Fund is now accepting applications for grants to encourage the study, appreciation, and preservation of birds and their habitats. Preference will be given to projects in the Denver metropolitan area, the Front Range, the state of Colorado, and the USA, in that order.

Awards typically range from \$500 to \$2000. Recent past grants have included grants to purchase binoculars for a grade school, support research on prairie management, promote bird breeding success, and repair the bird habitat at Last Chance, Colorado.

Proposals should include a description of goals, a methodology, a complete budget including other funding sources, and an indication of any completed preliminary work.

It is expected that successful grantees will provide a report on their project to be published in *The Lark Bunting* newsletter and on the DFO website, lead a field trip to the research site, or make a presentation at the monthly meeting.

An application form and a history of past grants awarded are available on the website <<http://dfobirds.org>> under About DFO, Research, Education and Conservation Fund.

Deadline for applications is February 1, 2015. Notification of awards will be made soon after.

Thank you for your contribution to the Research, Education, and Conservation Grant Fund:

Mark Amershek, Margaret Arp, Chris Blakeslee, Jill Boice, Karel Buckley, Tom and Mary Cay Burger, Will Burt, Carol Cochran, Dan and Carol Cook, Judy and Rick Creswell, Jean and Charlie Curlee, Pamela Dowd, Lee and Linda Farrell, Janet and A.J. Gest.

Newell Grant, Kristine Haglund, Sonja and Grace Hahn, J.B. Hayes, David Hill, Jan and Doug Hodous, Roy Hohn, Edie Israel, Tina Jones, Lois Levinson, Norm Lewis, Karen Clark and Joe Lupfer, Rex McGehee, Patrick O'Driscoll.

Jim Petri and Christie Owens, Tom Parchman, Pat and Barney Poole, Peggy Roberts, Karleen Schofield, Melissa W Smith, Kathryn and Steve Smith, Mary Ann Tavery, Ashley Thompson, Jan Justice Waddington, Lowell Baumunk and Peggy Wait, Laura and Wayne Wathen, Bea Weaver, Kiki Widjaja, Mary Zick

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016) mammershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015) willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016) wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015) candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2017) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015) meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2017) zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Karen von Saltza (2017) kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Lynn Willcockson (2017) lynniz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015) wuerthel@ecentral.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund 303-906-8044 kahaglund1@aol.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS 2014

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	720-381-3314
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May	Jackie King	720-381-3314
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August	Jackie King	720-381-3314
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	720-381-3314
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

Field Trips

Karen von Saltza kvonsaltza@yahoo.com

Grants

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Web Administration (<http://dfobirds.org>)

Mary Geder admin@dfobirds.org
Kay Niyo admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill d_d_hill@comcast.net

CFO Website

<http://cobirds.org>

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list cobirds@googlegroups.com

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

Nameplate photo of Lark Bunting pair by Lee Farrell

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles.

A special thank you to Sue and Harry Hall for the donation of many books, field guides, magazines, etc. that we will be giving out for free at the next several DFO monthly meetings.

Upcoming Speakers

Dave Leatherman Jan. 26
"More on What Birds Eat"

Carolyn Gunn Feb. 23
"The Latest on Black Swift Research"

Bryan Guarente March 23
"Weather and Bird Migration"

Nathan Pieplow April 27
"More Bird Songs"

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 20 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 35 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl, Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Featured This Month

Dave Leatherman Program

Grant Triples Netting Efforts

Grant Applications Due Feb. 1



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/MARCH 2015/VOL 51 NO 3

HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG

Field Trips

DIA Raptor Alley Saturday, March 7 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Chris Goulart (Email:
cgoulart001@comcast.net
Phone: 586-764-2126)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 7

Directions: Meet at Airport
Bldv/40th Ave Park-n-Ride,
3900 Salida St, Aurora, CO
80011.

From I-70 take Airport Rd Exit
(NOT Pena Blvd Exit). Go north
on Airport Rd and take your first
right on East 40th St and right
on Salida. Take a right into the
parking lot and park.

Bring lunch, water, snacks,
and scopes (if you have them).

We will be stopping at Barr
Lake later so if you have a State
Parks pass, that may be helpful.

This is an exploration of
Colorado's northeast prairie for
raptors, shrikes, and other late
winter birds.

**Please register online or
contact leader to register.**

Continued on page 2

DFO deadline looms!

March 1 is the cut-off date
for sending *The Lark Bunting* to
those who have not paid their
2015 dues.

Please renew online (working
well now) at <www.dfobirds.
org> using PayPal or credit card.

Or send a check and applica-
tion to Mary Cay Burger, 10826
E Maplewood Pl, Englewood
CO 80111.

Black Swifts in Colorado and beyond

An overview of Black Swift research in Colorado, including the DNA project, will be presented by Carolyn Gunn at the DFO meeting February 23. In addition, there will be an update on the breeding phenology of Black Swifts at Box Canyon, a continuing project for which DFO funding in 2014 was provided.

In the mid-1990s, when the Black Swift (*Cypseloides niger*) (BLSW) was designated as a U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species, a statewide inventory for this species in Colorado was begun. Over the next decade, more than 400 waterfalls were surveyed with 109 of the sites confirmed as Black Swift nesting sites, more than any other U.S. state.

Little was known about this enigmatic species when surveys were started in Colorado, and a small core group of researchers was eager to discover more about this species.

Interest was initiated by Kim Potter, Wildlife Biologist with the White River Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service; Rich Levad, then the Special Monitoring Projects Coordinator at Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory; Chris Schultz, Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Forest Service, San Juan National Forest; and the Colorado Natural Heritage Program.

Since that time, Kim Potter; Jason Beason, now the Special Monitoring

Continued on page 3



Carolyn Gunn and Black Swift chick at Fulton Resurgence Cave. Todd Patrick

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)

Sunday, March 8

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP.

From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir. State Parks pass or day pass required.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS TODAY. BE SURE TO ARRIVE AT THE CORRECT TIME.

This is a half-day trip passing through many important habitats in 3 miles.

Check weather predictions and dress accordingly. Bring water and snacks; lunch optional. Beginning birders welcome.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt

Saturday, March 14

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Jackie King (Email: jackie.king@ccd.edu Phone: 720-381-3314)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about 0.75 mile and turn right (west) on 44th Ave. Go one mile west.

Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south).

Meet just inside the park in the lot right next to Prospect Lake.

Bring water and snacks and we will see what we can scare up.

Ducks, gulls, finches, sparrows, raptors to be expected with waxwings and nuthatches possible. You never know what

Continued on next page

DFO celebrates 80 years enjoying birds

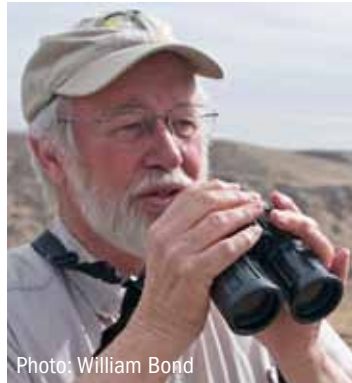


Photo: William Bord

From the President

Chuck Hundertmark

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Denver Field Ornithologists and the 50th anniversary of *The Lark Bunting*.

Over the years since its founding, DFO (originally Colorado Bird Club) has helped generations of birders learn about and enjoy birds of the Front Range through programs and field trips.

When *The Lark Bunting* was established, one of its major missions was reporting of the club's regular field trips.

Today, DFO's current trip reports have a home at eBird where they are accessible to a wider audience. DFO members who

want to view the reports can easily do so through the club's website, <www.dfobirds.org>.

Trip leaders enter their reports of DFO field trips on eBird within a few days of the trip. Each report has a number, and the leader posts the number on the DFO website.

You can access any trip report by opening the Field Trips tab at the top of the home page. On the pull-down menu, click Past Trip Reports. You'll see a list of recent field trips.

When you click on the name of any completed field trip, there is a box with a number beginning with S. It looks like this: S21405724. Clicking on the number will open the eBird checklist for that trip.

If a trip had more than one stop there may be more than one "S" number. Because most trip leaders are entering their data and S numbers within a few days of the trip, these reports are very timely.

The Lark Bunting, including past issues, can also be found on the website, though some members still prefer to receive the printed edition. The website, however, allows us to get news to members in a more timely way. For example, our site designer Ann Johnson recently added a feature that allows trip leaders to post notice of trip cancellations.

If one of our famous Colorado snow storms is threatening, you can check the website to see if a field trip you were planning on has been cancelled.

Sometimes there is confusion about changes that have come along with the website. For example, we encourage people to sign up for field trips on the website and it is easy to do so.

That allows participants to sign a waiver online, which is valid for all trips in the future. And it provides the leaders with emergency contact information for the trip.

However, if you don't sign up online, please contact the leader to register. Some trips have a maximum number of participants. For those, it is advisable to register online early so you aren't listed on a wait list.

Similarly, the website now makes it easy for members to renew online. For those who prefer, however, you can still send in your dues by mail or renew membership at the monthly meeting.

BLACK SWIFTS IN COLORADO, continued from page 1

Projects Coordinator for RMBO; and Carolyn Gunn, citizen scientist, have carried on the work.

With the help of many donations, grants, and volunteers, we have been unraveling the mysteries of the Black Swift. Nesting ecology requirements, nesting microclimate, diet, and phenology for this species in Colorado were determined through various projects.

And for the first time, the migration routes and wintering areas were discovered. Now we are moving deeper into the secrets of the Black Swift by examining the genetic building blocks of the species.

To date, no genetic studies of BLSW exist, yet powerful new DNA analysis techniques can give us great insight into a species. Information on overall genetic population structure, degree of genetic connectivity among colonies, colony site fidelity of individual birds, paternity, and evidence of historical processes responsible for the contemporary geographic distributions of individuals can be determined.

Denver Field Ornithologists has contributed to this project, helping make possible the analysis of Black Swift DNA. Approximately 100 blood and feather samples have been collected from Black Swifts during routine banding sessions over the past nine years and are being analyzed by the USGS FORT Molecular Ecology Laboratory in Ft. Collins.

DNA has been extracted from the samples and specific markers have been identified that can be used to determine individual traits. Once all of the DNA samples have been compared to these markers, final analysis will delineate the degree of relatedness among individual Colorado Black Swifts and among statewide colonies.

All Black Swift genetic sequencing information will be deposited with GenBank®, the National Institutes of Health annotated collection of all publicly available DNA sequences, providing other avian researchers access to this information.

This work is the first phase of future investigations into genetic connectivity

among North American populations of the subspecies *Cypseloides niger borealis* and how Colorado's Black Swifts relate to other North American, Central American, and West Indian populations.

The DFO meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium.

Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting.



Adult female Black Swift and chick at nest at Box Canyon Falls. Carolyn Gunn

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

will be sheltering in this tree rich area.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Roxborough State Park

Sunday, March 15

8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Doris Cruze (Email: cruzeduo@aol.com Phone: 303-798-8072)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Take S Wadsworth Blvd past Chatfield SP to Waterton Rd on left.

Take Waterton Rd 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Road. Turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd.

Turn left (east) onto Roxborough Park Rd and then turn immediately right (south) on Roxborough Rd and follow signs to the Park (2.2 miles).

We will take an easy walk through the red rocks valley looking for resident jays, towhees, golden eagles, and maybe some early migrants.

There is a \$6 fee for a day pass (bring correct change) or you can purchase an annual pass at the Visitor Center.

Bring water and a snack. The trip will end before noon, but if you want to bring a lunch, there is a patio with picnic tables.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Cherry Creek State Park

(Arapahoe County)

Sunday, March 22

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Mary Cay Burger (Email: mcburger3@juno.com Phone: 303-771-3431)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Enter at the EAST entrance to the Park from South Parker Road.

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

NOTE: this is NOT the regular meeting site for most previous trips.

Go past the entrance kiosk and take the first left turn. Continue on this road, past the east boat ramp and turn left to the "East Shades, Picnic Shelters," as shown on the park map, located on the east shore of the lake.

Join the leader for a drive and walk around the **East** side of the park looking for waterfowl, residents, and early migrants.

Bring binoculars, scopes, water, and snacks, and dress for the predicted weather.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Banner Lakes SWA (Weld County)

Saturday, March 28

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Mark Amershek (Email: mamershek@msn.com Phone: 303-329-8646)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the wild-life area for a half-day trip.

Take I-76 east; at the Hudson exit (exit 31), go four miles east on CO 52.

The main parking lot is on the left (north) just past CR 53 (Delorme 31 D6).

Bruce Neuman will help lead this trip with Mark. We will bird both the north and south sides of the area.

There are numerous small to medium sized ponds, many ringed with marshes, Russian olives, and junipers.

There is moderate on- and off-trail hiking of about 2 to 3 miles.

Please dress for the weather.

Continued on next page

Former editor Veronica Holt passes

We just learned of the passing of Veronica Holt in December 2014. Veronica served for 10 years as editor of *The Lark Bunting*.

Despite a sometimes hectic schedule of horse shows in the international world of dressage, Veronica consistently delivered DFO's monthly newsletter to members in time for them to plan attendance on field trips and our monthly meetings.

Veronica began discovering birds at age six in her native Scotland where her father would ask, "Do you understand what that bird is?" She became a member of the Angus and Dundee Bird Club and years later in Colorado forged a bond between DFO and the Angus and Dundee club.

She honed her journalism skills in London where she was a reporter for the *London Daily Mirror*. Holt came to Colorado via Canada where she worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Radio Canada.

While she was known in Colorado for her role in the birding community, she was known internationally as a U.S. Dressage Federation Regional Director and official of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI). As with her interest in birds, her love of horses dated to her childhood in Scotland.

Fascinating DFO history is on website

by Kris Haglund, Historian

Thanks to the work of some wonderful volunteers, we are able to continue to put more of the Denver Field Ornithologists history at your fingertips. Now available is the searchable text of meeting minutes from the DFO's founding in 1935 through 1959.

All of us transcribers are enjoying learning about what happened and why. We think you will find it interesting as well.

Please check it out and look for future installments at <http://dfobirds.org/DFO/History.aspx>. In addition, if you have, or know someone who has, DFO-related documentation just taking up space in the house, please contact Kris Haglund (kris.haglund@dmns.org, 303.906.8044) to donate it to the DFO archives.

Some fascinating comments found in the meeting minutes files by decade include

- "Long-crested jays seen at Elk Creek Ranch." 6/16/1935, p 15;
- "A most delightful overnight trip was spent by twelve Colorado Bird Club people at the Y.M.C.A. Conference grounds in Estes Park on July 20th and 21st, 1935." p 15;
- "New birds found in Colorado are Nelson's downy woodpecker and the starling." 1/19/1939, p 73;
- "It was moved and seconded that a note be sent to Mayor Stapleton urging him to take action to red [sic] Denver of the squirrels." 11/26/1940, p 8;
- "Mr. Dexter Landau showed us a tray of skins of birds most often used in falconry, such as the duck-hawk, prairie falcon, and sharp-shinned hawk." 12/23/1941, p 22; and
- "Mr. Lang Bailly said the Ivory-billed Woodpecker has been found nesting in Florida." 5/23/1950, p 4.

Duck Stamps support bird habitat

by Chuck Hundertmark

Recently I had the chance to participate in a North American Waterfowl Management planning workshop. The workshop was designed to get input from birders on what they want in a birding experience in a waterfowl management area.

Eleven or so birders from the Front Range, including several DFO members, participated. One suggestion that generated animated discussion was the need for ways for birders to make visible contributions to habitat acquisition or lease so we have a voice at the table.

Hunters and fishermen make visible financial investment in habitat acquisition through licenses, fees, and Duck Stamp purchases. Inevitably, Duck Stamps were mentioned as one way birders can contribute directly to habitat purchases and leases.

Last year, the American Birding Association launched an initiative to sell Duck Stamps to birders in a way that will make the birder contribution visible. Their target was \$15,000 of Duck Stamp sales. The stamps cost \$15 (ridiculously cheap). When I looked at the ABA web site, they were 26 Duck Stamps short of the goal. I purchased mine, so that should have cut the gap to 25.

The ABA initiative ended January 31, and I don't know if they'll repeat the initiative in 2015. But the stamps are always available at the local post office. That doesn't let the world know that the purchase was made by a birder, but it does support the habitats we depend on for birds.

Whether you find the stamps available again through ABA or drop by the post office, I encourage all birders to buy a Duck Stamp annually. I try to purchase mine twice a year.

A study a few years back pointed out that public lands, including those supported by Duck Stamps, provide a significant portion of the quality bird habitat in the country. Anything we do to support that habitat enhances the quality of our birding experience.



Appreciation from the rosy-finches

Thanks to Scott Menough and his gang at Wild Birds Unlimited (Yale and Wadsworth stores) for again generously donating a large bag of sunflower chips for Niña Routh's annual January rosy-finch trip to Fawn Brook Inn at Allenspark!

Left, Black Rosy-Finches are seen in fewer numbers at winter feeding stations than the other rosy-finch species. Kay Niyo

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

Scopes would be helpful but not necessary.

Potential for a hawk/owl search of the DIA loop in the afternoon.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

**Chatfield State Park
Sunday, March 29
7:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Ira Sanders & Tammy Sanders
(Email: zroadrunner14@gmail.com Phone: 303-278-7172)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the swim beach.

Join the leaders for this 3/4 day trip to explore the park for early migrants, waterfowl, resident birds, and any raptors zooming by.

Bring lunch, water, scopes, and dress for the predicted weather. A State Parks pass is required for entrance.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

—Scheduled by Chris Owens

**Thank you for your contribution to the Research, Education, and Conservation Grant Fund:
Jane Axtell, Jeff and Diane Carter, Kevin Corwin, Wendy Covert, Dave and Mary Driscoll,
Robin McDougal, Larry Modesitt, Nancy Osborn, Polly Reetz, Betsy Shaw, Jeff Stephenson,
Joan and Jack Whiting**

61st Annual Denver Christmas Bird Count

Day, Date, and Time: **Saturday, December 20, 2014, 6:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.**

Compiler: **Joey Kellner** Feeder Coordinator: **Joey Kellner**

Weather: **Overcast** → **Mostly clear** Temperature: **24 to 58 deg. F** Wind: **variable, 0 to 15 mph**

Snow Cover: **0 to 8"** Still Water: **Partly open** Moving Water: **Partly open**

Observers: **164 (144 in 38 parties, 20 watchers at 20 feeders)**

Total Party Hours: **238.25 (176.55 on foot, 61.7 by car)**

Total Party Miles: **707.85 (119.25 on foot, 588.6 by car)**

Hours Spent Watching Feeders: **53.5**

Count Day Totals: **107 species; 36,271 individuals**

Participants by Area (Area Leader's names in **bold**):

Area 1. Red Rocks Park (RRP): Tom Behnfield, Bob Brown, Marie-Dominique Franco, John Sakulich, **Dan Stringer**

Area 2. Lower Bear Creek (LBC): Rick Creswell, Jan Metro-Emmert, Martha Eubanks, Kate Frost, Parri Galli, Mike Henwood, Art Hudak, Diane Hutton, Kerrie Lagon, **Michael Kiessig**, Cynthia Madsen, Gary Mattes, Veronica Mattes, Kylie Mattes, Kacie Miller, Amy Morton, Steve Sieders, Wendy Wibbens

Area 2A. Bear Creek Lake Park (BCP): **Mark Amershek**, Bergit Arvin, Linda Broeren, A.J. Gest, Judy Lane, Bruce Neumann

Area 3. Bow Mar/Marston (BMM): Mary Burger, Mike Fernandez, Candice Johnson, Tim Johnson, **Kay Niyo**, Jessie Overbeck, Ira Sanders, Tammy Sanders, Glenn Walbek

Area 4A. Lower South Platte-east (LSP): Ruth Breckon, Nelson Ford, **Ed Holub**, Molly O'Malley

Area 4B. Lower South Platte-west (LSP): Georgia Hart, **Dick Schotler**, Claude Vallieres

Area 5. Highline Ditch (HLD): **Nancy Crews**, Duke Deegan, Leslie Newell, Pam Schmidt

Area 6. Plum Creek (PCK): Chris

Alexander, Jesse Casias, Renee Casias, **Norm Erthal**, Cheryl Teuton

Area 7A. Middle South Platte (MSP): Amy Cervene, **Charles Lawrence**, Paulo Tabarg, Santiago Tabarg, Sebastian Tabarg, Lara ?

Area 7B. Middle South Platte (MSP): **Hugh Kingery**, **Urling Kingery**, Deb Ostergard, Polly Reetz, Darrin Seex, Mike Serruto

Area 8. Chatfield Reservoir (CHA): Sandra Bland, Chris Gilbert, Jennifer Hallam, Alec Hopping, **Joey Kellner**, Alison Kondler, Bob Spencer

Area 9. Upper South Platte (USP): Corey Abe, Katherine Abe, Betty Glass, **Jill Holden**, Mary Keithler, Meredith McBurney

Area 10. Lower Deer Creek (LDC): Scott Dieni, Stephanie Jones, Melissa McKibben, Chris Owens, Liz Willcockson, **Lynn Willcockson**

Area 11. Upper Deer Creek (UDC): Karen Drozda, Lee Ferrell, Linda Ferrell, Nina Routh, **Paul Slingsby**

Area 12. Yegge Peak (YPK): Audrey Boag, **Ann Bonnell**, Mary Ann Bonnell, Peggy Gonder, Celia Greenman, Linda Knudsen, Walt Knudsen, Else Van Erp

Area 13. Doublehead Mountain

(DHM): **Amy Davis**, Nancy Davis, Tim Davis, Adam Green, Derek Hankins, Peggy Hankins

Area 14. North Turkey Creek (NTC): Ed Furlong, **Larry Modesitt**, Aaron Shipe, Dean Shoup

Area 15. Indian Hills (IHL): Chuck Aid, Brad Andres, Susan Blansett, Bill Eden, Caroline Gilbert, Michael Gilbert, Susan Harper, Bob Holmes, Jeanette Strom, Elaine Lockey, Bev Postmus, **Dick Prickett**, Warren Roske, Lynn Sauer

Area 16. Upper Bear Creek (UBC): Melissa Mezger, **Laura Steadman**

Area 17. Ken Caryl Ranch (KCR): Susan Bellegeini, Chip Clouse, Ruth Gabraski, David Gillian, **David Suddjian**, Bea Weaver

Area 18. Garrison Gate (GGT): Area not covered this year

Area 19. Morrison/Willow Brook (MWB): Pat O'Driscoll, **Steve Stachowiak**

Area 20. Willow Creek (WCK): **Doris Cruze**, Lynn Forrester, Nathan McAdams, Barbara Shissler, Peggy Wait, Dennis Wojcicki

Area 21. Mt. Lindo/Willow Springs (MLW): Laura Wathen, **Wayne Wathen**

A special thanks to the Count Roving Expert and Photographer—**Glenn Walbek**

2014 Denver Christmas Bird Count Highlights

by Joey Kellner, Compiler

The 2014 Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) took place on December 20th, the 61st consecutive year that the Denver Field Ornithologists has conducted a Christmas Count within the same 15-mile diameter count circle established in 1954 and centered just north of the old Ken Caryl Ranch entrance.

The weather on count day started overcast and became mostly clear with calm to low winds. It was a beautiful day to be out with the team reporting a respectable 36,271 individual birds of 107 species recorded by 144 field observers and 20 feeder watchers.

No new species were added to the cumulative Denver CBC list in 2014. The grand total of species seen since 1954 thus remains at 199.

(See Area totals at <http://dfo-birds.org/Documents/History/CBC/2014_Denver_CBC_Summary.pdf>).

Record-high individual numbers were established for **six** species this year: Cackling Goose (3,603 vs the previous high count of 2,534 in 2010), Northern Shoveler (1,272 vs 1,045 in 2011), Red-tailed Hawk (175 vs 143 in 2013), Eurasian Collared-Dove (382 vs 255 in 2012), Northern Saw-whet Owl (2 vs 1 in 1993, 2007, 2012, and 2013), Western Scrub-Jay (268 vs 219 in 2002).

The ten most numerous species observed on the 2014 Count were: 1. Canada Goose (12,590), 2. Cackling Goose (3,603), 3. American Crow (1,969), 4. Mallard (1,631), 5. Dark-eyed Junco (1,398), 6. Northern Shoveler (1,272), 7. House Finch (1,102), 8. Red-winged Blackbird (1,097), 9. Ring-billed Gull (946), 10. European Starling (915).

Second record Williamson's Sapsucker female found on the 2014 Denver CBC in Area 3 at Ft. Logan Cemetery, Denver, CO. *Ira Sanders*



“Rare” birds (seen on less than 10% of the previous Counts) and found this year included:

- Yellow-billed Loon (5th record) found in Area 8
- Sora (3rd record) found in Area 2
- Williamson's Sapsucker (only the 2nd record) found in Area 3
- Northern Saw-whet Owl (5th and 6th records) found in Areas 12 and 17
- Hermit Thrush (5th record) found in Area 2

“Uncommon” birds (seen 10–24% of the previous Counts) found this year included:

- Cackling Goose (Multiple areas—split and tracked starting in 2004)
- Barrow's Goldeneye (found in Area 8)
- Horned Grebe (found in Area 8)
- Eared Grebe (found in Area 8)
- Lesser Black-backed Gull (found in Area 8)
- Eurasian Collared-Dove (multiple areas – recent explosive addition to the annual count)
- Say's Phoebe (Areas 6 & 8)
- Clark's Nutcracker (found in Area 17)
- Golden-crowned Sparrow (found in Area 1)
- Lesser Goldfinch (5 individuals found at two feeder watchers homes—Areas 3 and 20)

Together, these ten species accounted for 72.5% of the birds counted. This is the first time that Northern Shoveler entered the top 10 (and #6 at that)!

One additional “Count Week” species was noted in the three days on either side of count day: Mountain Bluebird. Making an overall

Continued on page 8

Last Month's Program: *Birds Eat What?*

Tim Johnson

About 200 people turned out on the summer-like evening of January 26th to hear Dave Leatherman's presentation, "More on What Birds Eat," at DFO's first meeting of 2015.

Coincidentally, it was the 80th anniversary of the first meeting of DFO's forerunner, the Colorado Bird Club.

Dave, an entomologist with the Colorado State Forest Service (1974–2005), is currently writing a book about the natural history of his favorite haunt, Grandview Cemetery in Fort Collins.

He delivered a wide-ranging, humorous, and well-illustrated talk that explored the science of bird diet, and indicated how such knowledge could help birders, even above-average DFO birders.

Dave started with Northern Mockingbird data: this bird spends about a third of its energy foraging, to obtain about 60 kcal energy expenditure per day in the wild (60 calories in everyday parlance—remember, this is a two-ounce bird).

To obtain this, an insectivorous bird needs to find either a few large, high-energy items (Dave showed examples of moth caterpillars, grass-

hoppers, dragonflies, some beetles) or a lot of small, easily captured items (scale insects, flies, aphids, gall-forming wasps).

Dave presented some excellent photographs of large insects satisfying avian appetites, notably a House Sparrow subduing a large white-lined sphinx moth larva.

I was struck by how opportunistic such feeding is.

Discussing predation on dragonflies, Dave had local evidence for at least 16 bird species, ranging in size from Broad-winged Hawk and Pied-billed Grebe to Chestnut-sided Warbler (that bird looked as if it needed some help swallowing).

For small prey, Dave talked extensively about what he called "plant piñatas" or galls.

He discussed galls made by cynipid wasps, principally but not exclusively on bur or other "white" oaks, and galls formed by psyllids (otherwise known as jumping plant lice) on hackberry trees.

Cynipid larvae mature in October and psyllids emerging in late summer and early fall overwinter under tree bark.

Thus, both insects are a food

source in fall and winter, preyed upon by Downy Woodpecker, House Finch, Brown Creeper, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Red-breasted Nuthatch among others.

In spring, psyllids emerge in force, seeking new growth. Dave had a great photo of an opportunistic Wood Duck perched above ground in spring, munching on psyllids.

Also important in the small-prey category are chironomid midges (personal favorites of this author due to their polytene chromosomes: they were one of the first lab subjects for molecular biologists) and aphids.

Dave had photos of Horned Grebes and Bonaparte's Gulls vacuuming up midges, and spoke of aphids as a major food source ("little carbohydrate pills") for passerine birds.

He cited one study of a Northern Bobwhite consuming >5000 aphids per day. Associated insects, like caretaker ants and arthropod aphid predators, also serve as bird food.

I took too many notes on Dave's talk to summarize fully, which highlights the presentation's quality.

Read his frequent essays (entitled "The Hungry Bird") in *Colorado Birds*; archives are available since 2000 (<<http://cobirds.org/CFO/ColoradoBirds/>>).

He finished with several interesting bird/food pairings: Canyon Wrens at Horsetooth Reservoir preying on *Scutigera* species (house centipede, itself a predator); Red Crossbills getting their needed 20% of body mass in water per day from snow; and Gray Jays eating "dog vomit slime mold" (*Fuligo septica*).

Keep your eyes peeled out there while birding!

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT, *continued from page 7*

count of 108 species for the circle this year!

As compiler of the 61st Denver Christmas Bird Count, I thank all of the field observers and feeder watchers for participating. Special thanks go to the Area Leaders whose efforts and knowledge make this Count a success and to Cheryl Teuton and Dan Brooke who did an amazing job of coordinating this year's potluck.

Thanks also to Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the use of the Chatfield State Park Multipurpose Room for our compilation meeting. Lastly, thanks to all those who brought drinks and food to share!

Sharing food and friendship after a day in the field was a great way to relax before the holidays. I hope to see you all at the compilation next year!

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016) mammershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015) willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016) wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015) candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2017) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015) meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2017) zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Karen von Saltza (2017) kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Lynn Willcockson (2017) lynniz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015) wuerthel@ecentral.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund 303-906-8044 kahaglund1@aol.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS 2015

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	720-381-3314
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May	Jackie King	720-381-3314
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August	Jackie King	720-381-3314
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	720-381-3314
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

Field Trips

Karen von Saltza kvonsaltza@yahoo.com

Grants

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Web Administration (<http://dfobirds.org>)

Mary Geder admin@dfobirds.org
Kay Niyo admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill d_d_hill@comcast.net

CFO Website

<http://cobirds.org>

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list cobirds@googlegroups.com

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

Nameplate photo of Lark Bunting pair by Lee Farrell

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles.

Welcome, new members: John Scott Alden, Littleton; Birgit Arvin, Lakewood; Jack Blair and Carla Blair, Lakewood; Terry Cookro, Denver; Carol Hack, Denver; Linda Hensley, Aurora; Mary Kay LaFontise, Denver; Lora Lehman, Lakewood; Robert Martinez, Denver; Alan Montgomery, Louisville; Colleen Nunn, Denver; Roger Rouch, Wheat Ridge; Janet Shin, Littleton; Barb Anders and Ed Yoblonski, Denver

Upcoming Speakers

Carolyn Gunn Feb. 23
“The Latest on Black Swift
Research”

Bryan Guarente March 23
“Weather and Bird Migration”

Nathan Pieplow April 27
“More Bird Songs”

**Nate Warning and
Lauryn Benedict** Aug. 24
“Rocks in Rock Wren Nests”

Ted Floyd Sept. 28
“Birding in the Posthuman Age”

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | | |
|---|----|-------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ | 20 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ | 35 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ | 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ | _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting
Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742
Featured This Month
80 Years Enjoying Birds
Fascinating History
Denver CBC Highlights



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/APRIL 2015/VOL 51 NO 4

[HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG](http://DFOBIRDS.ORG)

Field Trips

Prospect Park (Wheat Ridge) Saturday, April 4

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Jackie King (Email: jackie.king@ccd.edu Phone: 720-381-3314)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about 3/4 mile and turn right (west) on 44th Avenue. Go one mile west. Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south).

Meet just inside the park in the lot right next to Prospect Lake.

We will check out the birds in the lake and then walk along the paved trails in this bird abundant area.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Riverside Cemetery/Platte River, Denver County Sunday, April 5

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Kevin Corwin (Email: kevygudguy@aol.com Phone: 720-482-8454)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Entrance is at 5201 Brighton Blvd in Denver. Gates open at 8 a.m.

Details: We will wander the paths of the cemetery and check its wetlands and woodlands.

Then exit via the back gate to the river and walk along the riverside path over to Northside Park where we'll check the pond and fields and retrace our steps back to the cemetery.

Continued on page 2

Take advantage of weather patterns

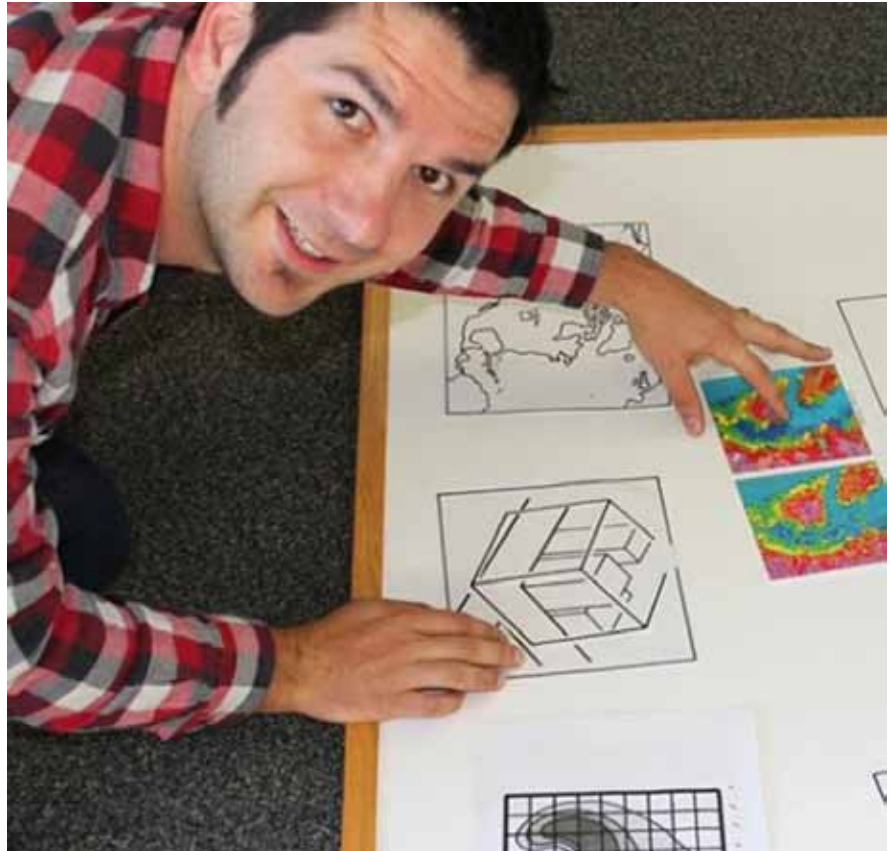
Bryan Guarente, an instructional designer by occupation, meteorologist by degrees, and birder for life, will bring you an understanding of when the strong pushes of migration will occur due to weather.

This highly interactive presentation on March 23, 2015 is geared toward helping you use widely available tools to find the best bird migration days, and thus the best birding days and locations.

Because this is about helping you learn how to take advantage of the weather patterns, you are strongly encouraged to participate in in-presentation learning interactions. Bring your smart phone or wireless-enabled device for these simple, in-presentation, learning interactions. (Your device will act as your remote answering device—"clicker.")

During migration, birds experience highly irregular sleep schedules, often binge-eating or flying hundreds of miles with other like-minded friends for intrepid all-nighters. Sounds like a typical teenager you say? Well you wouldn't be too far from the truth.

Continued on page 7



Bryan Guarente, meteorologist and birder. *Bryan Guarente*

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

If you arrive before the front gate is unlocked do not park on or near the railroad crossing at the cemetery entrance.

In the cemetery we will park on the west side of the office building.

Rudimentary restroom facilities are available in a shed on the east side of the office building; better ones in the office will be available at trip's end.

Bring water, footwear for dirt or mud paths, snacks for the morning. Leader has a scope.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch

Saturday, April 11

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

A.J. Gest (Email: offsetaj@comcast.net
Phone: 303-994-2420)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: Located south of I-70 on Smith Road between Chambers and Airport Blvd. Address 16002 E. Smith Road.

This will be early Spring birding in a riparian system. We should see a variety of birds. Black-capped Chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers, and raptors are a very good possibility.

No parks pass required. Dress accordingly. Bring snacks, water, binoculars, scopes are optional. Portable toilets on site.

Time and conditions permitting and for those who are interested, we may go to Parkfield Lake to see what's floating over there after our walk.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Continued on next page

Dodd Reservoir: interim restoration report

by Petrea Mah

In 2014 the Denver Field Ornithologists (DFO) Board approved a grant to the Boulder County Audubon Society (BCAS) for a prairie restoration project at Dodd Reservoir, a property northeast of Boulder owned by BCAS. A field trip will be led in June 2015 to view the project. Many qualified major advisors and partners are involved in the project.

As of December 2014, the following restoration work has been completed at Dodd Reservoir:

- 2.5 acres of smooth brome have been eradicated in native grass restoration area;
- 2.5 acres were planted to cover crop of milo in 2013;
- 2.5 acres have been planted to native grasses and forbs;
- 300 yards of prairie dog visual barrier on west boundary;
- 150 yards of downed barbed wire and T posts removed;
- 200 yards of woven wire removed to create migration corridor;

- 5 bird nest boxes placed around reservoir;

- 5 bee boxes placed as part of the University of Colorado Bees Needs research project;

- planted 7 varieties of fruiting shrubs and native willow;
- joined research study with Colorado Department of Agriculture for 2-year trials of bio-control on Canada thistle with (1) Canada thistle stem gall fly *Urophora cardui* and (2) rust fungus *Puccinia punctiformis*; and

- completed the following monitoring studies: pre-restoration (1) total bird counts 2009–2011 (1,992), (2) botanical inventory of plant issues and assets, and (3) bird, butterfly, and dragonfly transect surveys.

As of January 2015, the following restoration work will continue:

- partner with Wildland Restoration Volunteers to remove crack willow and Russian olive;



Dodd Reservoir. *Petrea Mah*



Bald Eagle near Dodd Reservoir.
Donna Tucker

- mow native restoration area yearly and over-seed low-yielding areas;

- continue with weed control in wetland and south shore; and

- post-restoration monitoring studies, total bird counts, botanical inventory, and bird, butterfly, and dragonfly transect surveys.

DFO awards grants to five projects

by Candice Johnson

We are excited to announce the recipients of grants for 2015, all of which are funded by the generous contributions of DFO members in 2014. These five projects represent research on critical bird species of the Front Range and Colorado, as well as promoting interest in ornithology by educating youth.

The projects include the following:

- Grazing-induced grassland heterogeneity effects on passerine nest survival. Amber Carver, Master's student at the University of Colorado, Denver. Second year of funding from the DFO. She is studying McCown's Longspur, Horned Lark, and Lark Bunting nesting on intensively grazed vs. traditionally grazed plots near Pawnee Grasslands.
- Two-way radios for education programs at RMBO in Brighton, CO. Tyler Edmondson. These are to be used for urgent leader communication at camps in RMNP.
- Scholarships to On the Wing camp for 15–17 year olds in RMNP and Taking Flight camp for 12–14 year olds. Tyler Edmondson of RMBO.
- The spatial dynamics of Clark's Nutcracker. Tyler Williams, Master's student at University of Colorado, Denver. He is studying the co-evolution of Clark's Nutcracker and its food trees in RMNP. He uses radio telemetry to track birds carrying backpacks with transmitters. Packs are then shed as feathers molt.
- Flammulated Owl Migration. Max Ciaglo and Ross Calhoun, affiliated with Colorado College. Second year of DFO funding for a study of pre-migration movements in Manitou Experimental Forest, using banding and blood sampling techniques.

In March the Flammulated Owl 2014 study results were published in *The Lark Bunting*. Carolyn Gunn provided an excellent presentation on the 2014 Black Swift project at the February 2015 DFO meeting.

Later this year and next year, we will learn more about the findings of these studies at either DFO meetings or in *The Lark Bunting*. Last year Amber Carver led a field trip in July to her research site, and this June there will be a field trip to Dodd Reservoir where we helped fund a riparian restoration project in 2014.

Members of the Research, Education, and Conservation Committee who reviewed grants were Carol Cochran, Tina Jones, and Candice Johnson.

All recipients have expressed deep appreciation to the DFO members who donated funds for their research or educational outreach. Our total awards for 2015 were \$6623, which exceeded our 2014 total of \$6558.

Thank you for your contribution to the Research, Education, and Conservation Grant Fund: Walter Combs, Audrey Gilden, Jeanne Howell, Tom Pool and Kitsi Atkinson, Joan and Jack Whiting

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)

Sunday, April 12

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP.

From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir. State Parks pass or day pass required.

This is a half-day trip passing through many diverse, important habitats in three miles.

Trails could be slippery, so dress accordingly. Bring water and snacks: lunch optional. Beginning birders welcome.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Fairmont Cemetery/High Line Canal (Denver County)

Saturday, April 18

8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

A.J. Gest (Email: offsetaj@comcast.net
Phone: 303-994-2420)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: Approach from E Alameda Ave and turn south on S Quebec St to entrance of Fairmont Cemetery.

Proceed to the south end to access the High Line Canal Trail. We can park in the Chapel of the Pines parking lot.

We should see some of our early spring migrants, kestrels, and maybe some surprises.

Birders of all levels welcome. Bring binoculars, water, and snacks. Scopes are optional. Restrooms are available after 9 A.M. in the mausoleum.

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Buffalo Peaks Ranch

Sunday, April 19

6:45 AM - 7:00 PM

Chris Rurik (Email: chrisrurik@gmail.com Phone: 253-225-7104)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: Meet at the Home Depot at the intersection of Highway 285 and C-470 at 4277 South Eldridge Street.

We will carpool to the ranch 1.5 hours drive from there.

This special trip is presented by DFO and the Rocky Mountain Land Library.

Come explore Buffalo Peaks Ranch, a stunning setting on the upper reaches of the South Platte River and future home of the Rocky Mountain Land Library's residential research library.

We will bird the ranch, get a tour of its old buildings, and learn about the land library's vision to build a headwaters-to-plains network of land awareness around its 20,000+ volume collection of natural history books.

Jeff Lee, founder of the land library, will guide the field trip. The ranch has hardly been birded, so we don't really know what to expect.

In the afternoon on our way back to Denver, we will make a few stops for birding (options include Antero Reservoir and Kenosha Pass).

Bring plenty of water, snacks, and lunch. If it has been wet, bring waterproof shoes.

The ranch is mostly open pasture land, but we will bird along the South Platte as well,

Continued on next page

Last Month's Program: *Black Swift*

Tim Johnson

On February 23, many brave souls struggled in from the cold to hear Dr. Carolyn Gunn give a scholarly update on Black Swifts.

Dr. Gunn is currently State Aquatic Veterinarian with Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

Her varied CV includes a Ph.D. in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Oklahoma, a residency at UC Davis, and base camp manager with a K2 climbing expedition.

Dr. Gunn's research work on Black Swifts would adorn a senior academic appointment, but in fact derives entirely from citizen-scientist volunteering, conducted with similar-minded colleagues from the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and the USFS over (roughly) the last two decades.

Much of the work she described is published, or in press, in the *Wilson Journal of Ornithology* (*WJO*).

Where possible, I will reference without (sorry!) authors to save space (<<http://www.wilsonsociety.org/pubs/index.html>>; abstracts are free).

Dr. Gunn began by briefly describing the Colorado history of Black Swifts and their conservation status.

First collected in 1881 near Silverton, their breeding distribution in Colorado and some ecological requirements were described by Dr. Owen Knorr in the early 1950s.

Breeding Black Swifts have been recorded in all states west of the Dakotas (except Nevada and Wyoming), British Columbia, and Central America.

Lack of data prevents accurate assessment of conservation status, but their finicky nest requirements and Dr. Gunn's data from Box Canyon near Ouray suggest a red alert.

Black Swifts nest next to waterfalls. In a study published in 2008 (*WJO* 120:331–338), six variables for successful nesting were described:

- volume of waterfall flow;
- number of potential rock niches available;
- amount of moss on location for nest building (the swifts don't go offsite for nest material);
- extent of shade;
- topological relief (swifts like to gain air speed by falling after launching);
- and aerial access to nest sites.

In addition, Black Swifts like cool temperatures and wet nests: data obtained in a nest microclimate study of nine Colorado/New Mexico occupied nests (*WJO*, submitted) indicated a nest temperature/relative humidity of 49F/89.7%.

Dr. Gunn speculated that Black Swift nestlings could dial down their metabolism to accommodate these conditions.

She showed nesting activities, many of them nocturnal, captured by an infrared-sensitive surveillance camera (cf. *Colorado Birds* 44:172[2010]).

The Colorado group's discovery that Colorado Black Swifts winter in Brazilian lowland rainforest (*WJO* 124:1–8[2012]) in the state of Amazonas raises questions beyond this result's intrinsic interest.

Continued on page 5

Dr. Gunn passed around a model swift with geolocator attached to its back. About an inch long and a quarter inch wide, these devices had to be retrieved intact to download data.

The group was fortunate enough to retrieve three in 2010 and one in 2011 out of four deployed in 2009. The birds traveled over 4000 miles at a rate of about 220 miles/day to get to the Amazon.

Since there are no waterfalls or rocky niches on the winter grounds, and since Black Swifts don't perch in trees and have difficulty taking off from a flat surface, it's not clear how they spend their time.

Dr. Gunn speculated that they might perform "aerial roosting," sleeping on the wing, as documented for other swift species.

It also isn't known if swifts breeding outside Colorado go to the same place. The group wants to use satellite tracking to resolve such questions and will use the International Space Station in this pursuit.

Dr. Gunn presented an update of Black Swift phenology, extending the data published in 2007 (*WJO* 119:678–685). The results indicate that absolute timing of nesting events (e.g., parent arrival and chick fledging) has not changed since 1996, but nesting success rate is trending down for unknown reasons.

She also presented progress on a DFO-funded project to analyze genetic diversity in Colorado Black Swift populations, using molecular techniques (analysis of microsatellite DNA sequences).

So far, 95 DNA samples have been processed, and eventually I hope to hear a lecture entitled, perhaps, "Analysis of Subspecies, Paternity Relationships, and Nest Fidelity in Black Swifts."

Monte Vista Crane Festival

by Tim Armstrong

The 32nd Annual MV Crane Festival will be March 13–15, 2015. The keynote speaker is the world-renowned Dr. George Archibald from the International Crane Foundation.

Dr. Archibald has studied cranes for over 45 years and has devoted his life to the conservation of cranes and the habitat on which they depend. Since he co-founded the International Crane Foundation in 1973, Dr. Archibald has studied the ecology of eight species of cranes in many countries.

He has published dozens of research articles and book chapters on cranes and their conservation, and he has organized more than 900 researchers in 64 countries to study cranes.

Dr. Archibald is planning to reduce his speaking engagements to begin work on his memoirs, so this may be one of our last opportunities to hear one of America's leading conservationists discuss his life's work.

Dr. Archibald will be speaking at 7:30 p.m. at the Vali 3 Theatre at 139 Adams Street in Monte Vista, Colorado on Saturday, March 14th. For more information, please visit <www.cranefest.com>.

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

so some moderate bushwhacking will be required.

April weather in South Park is variable, so if it looks terrible we will change plans and probably bird Chatfield instead.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

**Roxborough State Park
Saturday, April 25
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Alison Kondler (Email:
Fieldbirder@msn.com
Phone: 303-904-9140)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Take S Wadsworth Blvd past Chatfield SP to Waterton Rd on left.

Take Waterton Rd 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Road. Turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd.

Turn left (east) onto Roxborough Park Rd and then turn immediately right (south) on Roxborough Rd and follow signs to the Park (2.2 miles).

We will start at the visitor center for a fun presentation to teach you a variety of useful techniques to memorize bird sounds.

Then we will head outside on an easy, slow paced hike of approximately 1.5 miles to practice identifying the local birds.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Continued on page 6



Lark Sparrow, common arrival in spring. *Kay Niyo*

Field Trips

Continued from page 5

Barr Lake State Park
Sunday, April 26
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email:
 kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
 Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 20

Directions: Meet at the Barr Lake SP Visitor Center. State Parks pass or day pass required.

From Denver, take east I-76 to Bromley Lane, exit 22. Go east on Bromley Lane to Piccadilly Rd, then turn south for ~2 miles to park entrance and follow road to Visitor Center.

This is Gregg Goodrich's popular Spring trip to Barr Lake. This will be a long half day, depending on the birds.

Bring water and snacks. Scopes and lunch optional.

We'll go south first, along the board walk and southern edge of the reservoir, scoping out the heronry.

Then we will return north and go to the bird banding station. We'll look for waterfowl, nesting Bald Eagles, and early migrants.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

—Scheduled by Jill Boice

Join the Raptor Monitoring Program

by Lauren Poulos

Do you have an affinity for birds of prey? Are you an avid birder? The City of Longmont wants YOU in our Raptor Monitoring Program!

The time has come for us to start organizing our team for the 2015 season. Some species of eagles and owls have already begun nesting, and other species are soon to follow.

If you're interested in participating in the raptor monitoring program this year, please register using this link: <<http://bit.ly/RaptorMonitoring>> or call 303-774-4825, and we'll get you signed up!

First time birder? Not to worry! We will provide training and materials to help you learn the ropes.



Sharp-shinned Hawk, common raptor in CO. *Kay Niyo*



Bald Eagle that may be seen at Barr L. *Kay Niyo*



Ferruginous Hawk at Barr L, January 9, 2012. *Kay Niyo*



Red-shouldered Hawk, a rare migrant through Eastern Colorado in April. *Kay Niyo*

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WEATHER PATTERNS, *continued from page 1*

Birds can't help it. Each spring and fall a cascade of hormones triggered by increasing (or decreasing) sunlight tugs them like a Siren's song toward the poles or equator.

This restless period, called *Zugunruhe*, is the basis of most bird migrations.

What misfortune though, that this migratory drive happens to coincide with the some of the most violent weather systems.

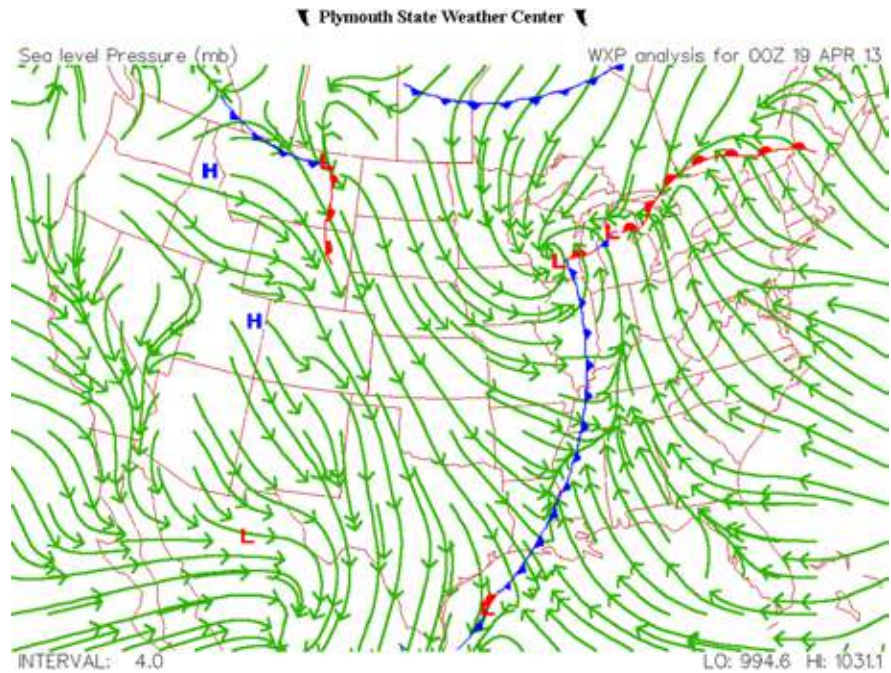
Or perhaps not misfortune but serendipity when seen through the eyes of an efficiency-seeking, meteorologist-bird.

The frenzied flow of high and low pressure weather systems so typical of spring and fall in the mid-latitudes (30° to 60° latitude) gives rise to the winds that fuel migration.

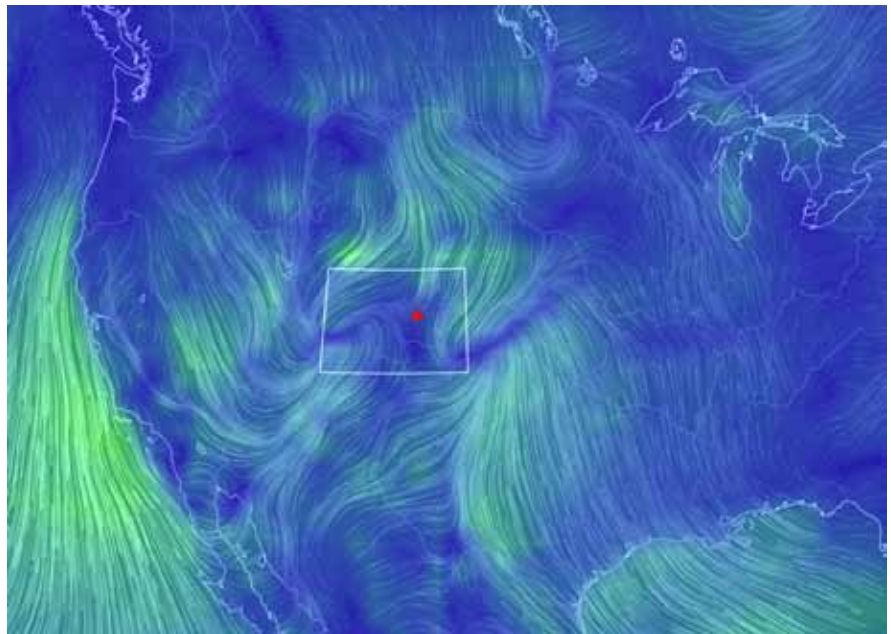
A better understanding of how changes in temperature and pressure affect winds and how big-picture weather systems often explain local birding phenomena can be a useful tool for birders seeking rarities, fallouts, and other exciting migratory action.

So let's take a deeper look starting with the big picture and then learning how to "read" weather patterns to find the best birding locations during migration.

The DFO meeting is at 7:30 p.m. on March 23rd in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting.



Pressure centers, fronts, and streamlines from April 19, 2013. *Plymouth State Weather Center/Bryan Guarente*



850mb streamlines from the Mother's Day storm of 2014. <earth.nullschool.net/ NOAA>

DFO 2014 Year End Report to Members

	Operating Funds	Grant Funds	Total
Balance 1-2-2014	\$19,055.03	\$9,519.49	\$28,574.52
plus Deposits			
Membership Dues	\$5,868.64		
Donations		\$3,673.20	
Balance Before 2014 Expenses / Disbursements	\$24,923.67	\$13,192.69	\$38,116.36
less Expenses / Disbursements			
<i>Lark Bunting</i>			
Printing	\$1,896.32		
Layout	\$2,395.00		
Honoraria	\$1,100.00		
Website Design and Creation	\$3,822.17		
Insurance			
Gen Liability	\$607.00		
D & O	\$744.00		
Field Trip Leader Training	\$314.29		
DMNS Assoc Member Dues	\$650.00		
Donation - Colo Bird Atlas P'shp	\$200.00		
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$257.54		
Grants Distributed			
Flamm Owl Fall migration study to Max Ciaglo		\$1,512.93	
Grazing Mgmt - McCown's Longspur to Amber Carver		\$1,545.00	
Eastern Screech Owl research to RMBO		\$1,000.00	
Engaging people in Bird Habitat Mgmt to RMBO Emily Snode		\$600.00	
Black Swift Breeding Phenology - Rich Levad Fund		\$400.00	
Denver Zoo - Conservation Biology		\$1,000.00	
Dodd area revegetation to Boulder Audubon Society		\$500.00	
Total Operating Expenses	\$11,986.32		\$11,986.32
Total Grant Funds Distributed		\$6,557.93	\$6,557.93
Balance 12-31-2014	\$12,937.35	\$6,634.76	\$19,572.11

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016) mammershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015) willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016) wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015) candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2017) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015) meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2017) zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Karen von Saltza (2017) kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Lynn Willcockson (2017) lynniz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015) wuerthel@ecentral.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund 303-906-8044 kahaglund1@aol.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	720-381-3314
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May	Jackie King	720-381-3314
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August	Jackie King	720-381-3314
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	720-381-3314
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

Field Trips

Karen von Saltza kvonsaltza@yahoo.com

Grants

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Web Administration (<http://dfobirds.org>)

Mary Geder admin@dfobirds.org
Kay Niyo admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill d_d_hill@comcast.net

CFO Website

<http://cobirds.org>

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list cobirds@googlegroups.com

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

Nameplate photo of Lark Bunting pair by Lee Farrell

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles. © 2015 Denver Field Ornithologists. All Rights Reserved.

Welcome, new members:

Justine Hausheer, Denver; June Monson, Denver; Beth Partin, Boulder; David Starbuck, Denver

Upcoming Speakers

Bryan Guarente March 23
“Weather and Bird Migration”

Nathan Pieplow April 27
“More Bird Songs”

**Nate Warning and
Lauryn Benedict** Aug. 24
“Rocks in Rock Wren Nests”

Ted Floyd Sept. 28
“Birding in the Posthuman Age”

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | | |
|---|----|-------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ | 20 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ | 35 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ | 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ | _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting
Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742
Featured This Month
Dodd Reservoir Restoration
DFO Awards Five Grants
Year End Report



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/MAY 2015/VOL 51 NO 5

HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG

Field Trips

Denver City Park (Denver County) Friday, May 1

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Chuck Hundertmark (Email: chundertmark8@gmail.com
Phone: 303-604-0531)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the parking strip southeast of 22nd Ave just north of Ferril Lake.

From Colorado Blvd, turn west onto 22nd Ave and go past the Museum of Nature and Science. Turn left just before the zoo at the sign to the Pavilion Bandstand.

Park on the left at the end of the parking area closest to Ferril Lake.

PHOTOGRAPHY: We will focus on photography of the heronry and cormorant colony.

Please register online or contact leader.

Genesee Park (Denver Mountain Parks) Saturday, May 2

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Wendy Wibbens & Sue Summers (Email: wibbwj@aol.com
Phone: 303-330-1175)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the Stegosaurus parking lot just south of I-70, exit 259. Drive under the freeway to the second left turn.

The parking lot is at the base of the Hogback, near the Hawk Watch location.

Join us to look for spring migrants in ponderosa woodlands.

Continued on page 2

Songs of female birds often overlooked

Only male birds sing, right? Wrong! In fact, this widespread notion has a lot more to do with human cultural and geographic biases than it has to do with nature. In this DFO presentation on Monday, April 27, Nathan Pieplow will explore the often-overlooked songs of female birds.

You will hear the pair duets of meadowlarks and blackbirds, the musical

songs of female cardinals and orioles, and the distinctive sound of the female Canyon Wren, among others.

In which North American species do females actually sing more often than males? How do you know when you're listening to a female Blue Jay? And where did we even get this crazy idea that only male birds sing?

Answers to these questions and more in Nathan's presentation!

Nathan lives in Boulder, where he teaches writing at the University of Colorado. An avid bird sound recorder, he is the author of the bird sound blog <<http://earbirding.com/blog/>> and



Nathan Pieplow. Molly Steele

the author of the upcoming *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds*. He is a former board member of the Colorado Field Ornithologists and former editor of the journal *Colorado Birds*.

The DFO meeting is at 7:30 p.m. on April 27th in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting.

Please attend:

DFO members will elect officers and directors at the April 27 business meeting.

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

Genesee Park is a great trip for beginning birders and for intermediate and advanced birders to hone their skills in identification and bird calls.

We'll be looking for raptors, Williamson's Sapsuckers, bluebirds, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskins, and more.

Bring water, sunscreen, snacks, and dress in layers for spring weather. Our hike will be moving uphill and down so wear sturdy shoes.

Please register online or contact the leader.

Prospect Park (Wheat Ridge) Saturday, May 2 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Jackie King (Email: jackie.king@ccd.edu Phone: 720-381-3314)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about 3/4 mile and turn right (west) on 44th Avenue. Go one mile west.

Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south).

Meet just inside the park in the lot right next to Prospect Lake.

We will check out the birds in the lake and then walk along the paved trails in this bird abundant habitat.

Please register online or contact the leader.

Brett Gray Ranch (Lincoln County) Sunday, May 3 5:45 AM - 6:00 PM

Mark Amershek (Email: mammershek@msn.com Phone: 303-329-8646)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the King Soopers parking lot at 100

Continued on next page

Developing future leaders in birding

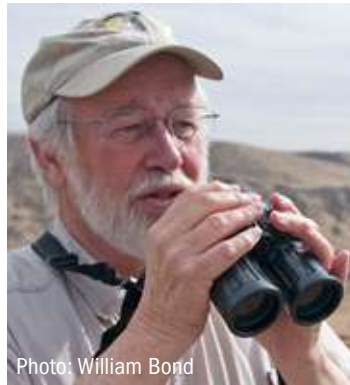


Photo: William Bond

From the President

Chuck Hundertmark

In 2011 as the annual election of DFO officers approached, my predecessor, Chuck Thornton-Kolbe, asked that I be prepared to say a few words before the election about why I wanted to be president.

As I prepared to write this, my last column as DFO president, I looked back over the notes from those remarks I made before the election.

In my "campaign" speech, I observed that DFO has been cultivating leaders for Colorado birding since the days of Robert Niedrach, the club's founder. At the time, I may not have fully realized how true that

statement was. Since the 1930s, many of the leaders of bird study in Colorado have emerged from the Colorado Bird Club, now DFO.

Just as significantly, the leadership that led to the formation of Audubon Society of Greater Denver emerged from DFO. The same is true of Colorado Field Ornithologists. For these reasons, I've come to think of DFO as the mother ship of Colorado birding.

In the world of birding, leadership begins with the desire to learn more about birds. It was that desire that led Niedrach's students to form the Colorado Bird Club. Through programs and field trips today, DFO continues to provide members and guests the opportunity to learn about birds and enjoy their amazing variety and incredible adaptations.

Most weekends throughout the year, DFO has two field trips scheduled giving members and guests a chance to learn about Colorado birds first hand. On these trips, experienced Colorado birders like Joey Kellner, Ira and Tammy Sanders, and Karen von Saltza share their knowledge of Colorado birds with others. And trip participants share birding lore among themselves.

Since the earliest days of the Colorado Bird Club, it has been on these trips that the leaders of the Colorado birding world emerged.

In the past two years, DFO has taken the first steps toward making trip leader development a more systematic process. Our written standards and best practices make our expectations of trip leaders explicit. While DFO trip leaders have always had good birding skills, the standards have raised awareness of other aspects of trip leadership including safety and organizational aspects of the trip.

As the new trip leader standards were being developed, Kay Niyo also began leading the development of a new DFO website <<http://dfobirds.org/>>. The Trip Leader Development Committee (Karen von Saltza, Mark Amershek, and Paul Slingsby) had a vision for a registration process on the website that would streamline field trips for leaders and participants alike. Much of that process has been incorporated by Ann Johnson <<http://ajendeavors.com/>> on the website.

Leaders can now get an idea of how many participants they will have on the

Continued on page 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued from page 2

trip and the cumbersome process of signing waivers at the beginning of a trip has been minimized.

Many trip leaders have been limiting the number of participants on field trips. This makes for safer and better birding experiences. Paradoxically, preliminary data suggest the demand for DFO field trips is increasing.

More changes may be needed in the future to accommodate the increasing demand for DFO trips. At a recent Trip Leader Forum, trip leaders considered such measures as giving members priority on field trips or increasing the number of trips offered. The latter option would mean recruiting more trip leaders.

I've always thought becoming a trip leader is a logical step in developing birding skills. When you take on the trip leader role, you find yourself expanding your own knowledge of birds and habitats as you prepare for trips and wrestle with unexpected questions from trip participants.

While I can't predict the future of DFO, I hope it will include recognition of the importance of continuing to develop leadership in Colorado birding.



Bullock's Oriole female at Chimney Gulch, Golden, CO, spring. *Alistair Montgomery*

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

Founders Parkway (just east of I-25) in Castle Rock, CO to carpool to Brett Gray Ranch.

Mark Amershek and Bruce Neuman will co-lead this trip.

Please register online or contact the leader to register before May 1st.

Carpool will leave at 6 a.m. sharp. We need volunteers to drive (high clearance 4-wheel-drive vehicles), so let Mark know if you can drive.

Brett Gray is a 49,000-acre Nature Conservancy working ranch located in Lincoln County (southeast of Colorado Springs).

The driving distance from Castle Rock is approximately 100 miles.

The ranch will be birded by following the ranch roads in cars to bird on level open space areas, ponds, wetlands, grasslands, and small creeks.

This ranch is similar in habitat to Chico Basin Ranch with 2 dammed ponds and wooded areas.

There are no restroom facilities at the ranch or nearby so we will stop in East Colorado Springs on our drive down and on our way back. Plan accordingly.

This will be an all-day trip so bring water and lunch. Scopes would be handy; a two-way radio per car would be helpful.

We will bird until 4 p.m. and should be back to Castle Rock around 6 p.m.

Spring Bird Counts May 8–10

Refer to the schedule **on page 8 in this newsletter.**

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County) Sunday, May 10

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP.

From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

This is a half-day trip passing through many diverse, important habitats in three miles.

Trails could be slippery, so dress accordingly. Bring water and snacks; lunch optional. Beginning birders welcome.

Please register online or contact leader.

Columbine Open Space (Douglas County) Saturday, May 16

7:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Doris Cruze (Email: cruzeduo@aol.com Phone: 303-798-8072)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 15

Directions: Meet leader at Castle Rock McDonald's on Wolfensburger Road, exit 182, about 4 blocks east of I-25.

We will bird the open space for prairie birds, pond birds, and possible raptors. If time permits, we will drive to hot spots along I-25 access road on the east side of the highway.

Bring water, insect repellent, snacks and/or sack lunch, scope if you have one. Wear sturdy shoes or boots for walking dirt trails. **Please register online or contact leader.**

Continued on next page

Last Month's Program: Weather

Tim Johnson

More than 100 people turned out on March 23 to experience "Bird Migration and Weather," an unusually interesting presentation by Bryan Guarente.

Bryan is a meteorologist/instructional designer with the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) (a consortium of over 100 universities, which manages the National Center for Atmospheric Research on behalf of the National Science Foundation).

Bryan, who boasts an M.S. in Atmospheric Science and a B.S. in Meteorology, is an avid birder/photographer. He has developed some intriguing tools to help birders identify areas with significant potential using weather data.

Among the many physiological and environmental factors affecting bird migration, according to Bryan, weather is perhaps the least well understood. He contrasted the weather pictures we get from TV news with what he called pictures of the "real" atmosphere.

These are time-lapse movies revealing movements of atmospheric features as recorded by visible, infrared, and water vapor-sensitive photography from satellites. (I'll get into the sources of such data later.) The video of water vapor movement, shown at a speed of 12 hr/second, was especially dramatic, showing the regular, concurrent opposing circulations in Northern and Southern hemispheres. Earth looks like Jupiter in this video.

As we all know, however, these regular global patterns don't translate into day-to-day weather on Earth's surface. Wind patterns can change significantly with altitude. Bryan pointed out that migrating birds can use these patterns in various ways. Non-soaring migrants generally fly up to 2 km above ground; soaring birds take advantage of thermals and can fly up to 5 km above ground.

Migrants can vertically explore wind patterns to find out if there's an available tailwind and act accordingly. Predictably, this results in a scenario whereby long-duration wind patterns produce long-distance migrants, and short-duration wind patterns produce short-distance migrants.

Bryan's basic insight boils down to this: if the wind patterns migrating birds use are severely interrupted, the birds are going to take a break to rest and eat. And there are meteorological tools available to tell where these break points might be.

The most useful tool Bryan demonstrated was an animated map of "streamlines" (instantaneous wind speed at a given altitude [approximated by atmospheric pressure], which is calculated from weather models). You have to try it to understand it, so fire up your computer!

See <<http://earth.nullschool.net/#current/wind/isobaric/850hPa/>> to access streamlines. Or you can access the site at <<http://earth.nullschool.net/>>. Click on Earth in lower left corner and choose Height, 850hPa. Then click on Earth again to shut that window.

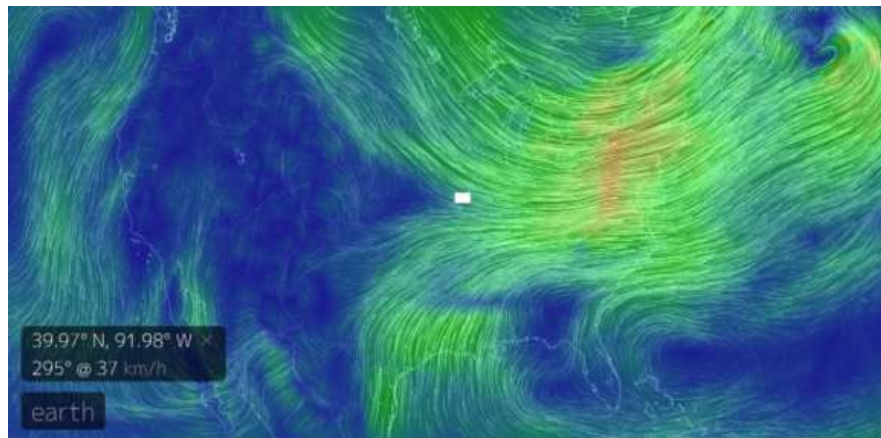
The screen that comes up looks like Google Earth. Rotate the globe (left-click and hold) and zoom in with your mouse wheel as far as you can. Right-

Continued on page 5

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM, *continued from page 4*

click on the image. The green circle marks a location whose coordinates are given. Click anywhere to change location (Denver coordinates are about 39.73 N, 104.99W).

Look for places where the green windstream color vanishes over a short distance, or meets an opposite windstream flow, or abruptly changes direction. These are candidates for good birding locations during migration. They often match with fronts on TV weather maps.



As an example, Bryan told of an Ivory Gull that was spotted in Quincy, Illinois on January 2 of this year. Let's look at the weather patterns for this sighting.

The blank rectangle is located approximately on Quincy where the gull was spotted. Note the nearby changes in wind direction and velocity, and the winds from the north that the bird presumably followed. Going forward a few days reveals extreme changes in wind patterns all around this area. Birds can sense air pressure, so maybe the gull landed out of uncertainty!

Bryan listed these important sites of interest:

- See <<http://earth.nullschool.net/#current/wind/isobaric/850hPa/>> for animated streamlines, which we just explained.
- Plymouth State Weather Center: make your own map (including archive) <<http://vortex.plymouth.edu/ua-u.html>>
- NOAA 850mb Streamlines in the tropics: <<http://weather.noaa.gov/fax/windstrm.shtml>>
- Collection of multiple computer models streamline output at multiple levels: <<http://homes.comet.ucar.edu/~guarente/birdweather/stream.htm>>

Of these, I found the Plymouth State Weather Center the most interesting. Here's where the time-lapse movies I mentioned are located. Check the sidebar on the parent website <<http://vortex.plymouth.edu>>.

And try the alternate geographic projections on the <<http://earth.nullschool.net>> site, particularly the AE projection, for Herman Melville fans interested in the Roaring 40s.

Happy web surfing/birding and take a raincoat outside!

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

Roxborough State Park

Saturday, May 16

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Alison Kondler (Email: Fieldbirder@msn.com Phone: 303-904-9140)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Take S Wadsworth Blvd past Chatfield SP to Waterton Rd on left.

Take Waterton Rd 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Road. Turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd.

Turn left (east) onto Roxborough Park Rd and then turn immediately right (south) on Roxborough Rd and follow signs to the Park (2.2 miles).

We will start at the visitor center for a fun presentation to teach you a variety of useful techniques to memorize bird sounds.

Then we will head outside on an easy, slow paced hike of approximately 1.5 miles to practice identifying the local birds.

Please register online or contact the leader.

Golden Gate Canyon State Park

Sunday, May 17

7:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Toni Rautus & Mary Geder (Email: trautus@q.com Phone: 303-422-7322)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the RTD Jefferson Co. Government Center Park-n-Ride Station (aka the Taj Mahal) at 100 Jefferson County Parkway.

We hope for a good variety of species and lots of singing and nesting activity in meadows, aspen groves, and pine covered

Continued on page 6

Field Trips

Continued from page 5

hills. Expect numerous foothill and mountain species.

Bring weather-suitable clothing and hat, water, sunscreen, snacks. **Please register online or contact the leader.**

Delaney Community Farm Sunday, May 17

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM

A.J. Gest (Email: offsetaj@comcast.net Phone: 303-994-2420)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Delaney Community Farm is on the east side of Chambers Road Between Alameda Ave and 1st Ave: 170 East Chambers, Aurora.

Look for the entrance just north of the Delaney Farm sign. Park in the lower parking lot near the corrals.

This is a new trip for DFO. The combination of old cottonwood trees, community gardens, mixed grass fields, and Toll Gate Creek provides great habitat for many songbirds.

Sparrows, nesting Red-tailed Hawks, woodpeckers, orioles, and several species of swallows are not uncommon.

Bring water, sunscreen, and a snack. Scopes are optional.

Portable toilets should be available but not guaranteed. There are public facilities at the Aurora Public Library.

These are easy walking paths but not paved. The estimated distance by foot is 2.5 miles.

Please register online or contact the leader.

Pueblo area

Saturday, May 23

6:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Ira Sanders & Tammy Sanders

Continued on next page

DFO to elect officers, directors April 27

At its Monday, April 27 annual business meeting, DFO members will elect a full slate of Officers for the next year and four Directors for a three-year term. As set out in the bylaws, the election will be by majority of the voting members present in person at the annual meeting. The voting will be by voice vote.

DFO Officers are elected for a one-year term; Directors are elected for three-year terms with staggered terms. Terms of four Directors were completed this year. Four Officers and two Directors will stand for re-election. The Nominating Committee has nominated Joe Roller to serve as President, succeeding Chuck Hundertmark. The Committee has nominated Kristine Haglund and Chris Rurik to succeed Directors Meredith McBurney and Bill Wuerthele. The nominated Officers and Directors are

Officers (one-year term):

Joe Roller	President
Bob Shade	Vice President
Mary Geder	Treasurer
Kay Niyo	Secretary
Mary Cay Burger	Membership Chair

Board of Directors (three-year term):

Will Burt
Kristine Haglund
Candice Johnson
Chris Rurik

It should be noted that the bylaws also provide for additional nominations from the floor at the time of the election.

Annual RMBO BBQ for the Birds

Join many birders on May 21 for Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory's 12th annual picnic and member get-together. The BBQ for the Birds is free and open to the public with a \$5 suggested donation.

Go birding around Barr Lake at 4 p.m. with RMBO biologists and members. Enjoy a delicious BBQ dinner at 6 p.m. with New Belgium beer, live music from Martin Gilmore, a silent auction, and a celebration of RMBO's future.

See <<http://www.rmbo.org/v3/>> for more details. Old Stone House at Barr Lake, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO.

Thank you for your contribution to the Research, Education, and Conservation Grant Fund: Ron Carter, Jim Esten, Sara Hanrahan and Jacob Hinkle, Tim Patnode

Upcoming Field Trips

Click the plus (+) sign at the left of a trip to see more details. If a trip is filled (indicated in red) you will be placed on the wait form for that trip.

Show/Edit My Upcoming Trips



Download a PDF document of upcoming trips

	Location	Date	Leader(s)	Difficulty
+	Register Morrison Nature Center at Star K Ranch	Apr 11 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	A.J. Gest	Easy
+	Register Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)	Apr 12 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Karen von Saltza	Easy
+	Register Fairmont Cemetery/High Line Canal (Denver County)	Apr 18 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM	A.J. Gest	Easy
+	Register Buffalo Peaks Ranch	Apr 19 5:45 AM - 7:00 PM	Chris Rurik	Moderate
+	Register Roxborough State Park	Apr 25 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Allison Kondler	Easy
+	Register Barr Lake State Park	Apr 26 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Karen von Saltza	Easy
+	Register Denver City Park (Denver)	May 1	Phyllis Henderson	Easy

What if a participant needs to cancel?

Karen von Saltza

If you have signed up for a field trip on DFO's new website but decide that you cannot make it, there is an easy way to cancel your participation. Go to <http://dfobirds.org/FieldTrips/UpcomingTrips.aspx> and click on "Field Trips, Upcoming Field Trips."

At the top left hand corner of this page, just above the icon for a PDF document, you will see a place to click for "Show/Edit My Upcoming Trips."

When you click on this function a list of your field trips will appear. To the right of the name of the trip you will see a function for "Edit/Delete." Click on DELETE and your name will be removed from the list.

This is particularly important if the trip is over-subscribed. Once your name is removed, the first waitlisted person on the list will be moved forward and confirmed for the trip.

Karval Mountain Plover Festival

Check at <http://www.karval.org/> for more information on attending the 9th Annual Karval Mountain Plover Festival on April 24–26, 2015.



Mountain Plover adult near well-camouflaged nest with eggs in glacial pavement, southern Phillips Co., MT in 2003, on one of Stephen J. Dinsmore's (Iowa State University) long-term research sites. Kay Niyo

Field Trips

Continued from page 6

(Email: zroadrunner14@gmail.com Phone: 303-278-7172)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 15

Directions: Meet at SW corner of Safeway parking lot at NE corner of Yosemite and Lincoln Ave in Lone Tree about 1 mile west of I-25. Park away from store.

State Parks pass required. Bring lunch, snacks, water, sunblock.

We will be birding Pueblo City Park, Valco Ponds, and other areas at the leader's discretion. Hopefully Brandon Percival will join the group in Pueblo.

We are meeting at 6 a.m. and leaving no later than 6:15 a.m. Be prepared to carpool.

Depending on how many cars we have, because of participants staying for the trip the next day, we may consolidate and adjust the carpooling in Pueblo.

This trip is a companion trip to Mary Cay Burger's Cañon City trip on Sunday May 24, 2015.

If you are planning on joining Mary Cay, you may want to make motel reservations in Pueblo or Cañon City. See her trip description for details.

Please register online or contact the leader.

Cañon City

Sunday, May 24

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Mary Cay Burger (Email: mcburger3@juno.com Phone: 303-771-3431)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 15

Directions: Meet at the McDonald's restaurant, 2305 Fremont Drive, Cañon City. This is on the north frontage road along Hwy 50 as you drive into town.

Continued on page 8

Field Trips

Continued from page 7

Meet at 8 a.m. at the McDonald's. We will have time there for a restroom stop. Be ready to leave by 8:30 a.m. Full day will end about 4 p.m.

SeEtta Moss will be our local guide along the Arkansas River and in pinyon/juniper habitat.

You might expect to see Scaled Quail, Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebirds.

We can hope for Juniper Titmouse, Pinyon Jay, and Gray Flycatcher.

Pack a lunch, snacks, plenty of water, and sunscreen. No park pass required.

This trip is a companion trip to Ira and Tammy Sanders' trip to Pueblo on May 23.

If you sign up for both trips, please make motel arrangements in either Cañon City or Pueblo.

On May 23-24 Mary Cay Burger may be reached on her cell phone: 720-940-8394.

Please register online or contact the leader.

Mt. Falcon Park (Jefferson County)

Monday, May 25

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen Drozda (Email: drozforte@AOL.com Phone: 303-388-0891)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 15

Directions: Meet at upper parking lot of west side of Mount Falcon Park.

From C-470 and U.S. 285 South, turn right at the Indian Hills exit to Parmalee Gulch Road.

Follow Parmalee Gulch Road for approximately 2.5 miles to Picutis Road, turn right at Picutis,

Continued on next page

33rd Annual Spring Bird Count

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver will conduct its 33rd Annual Spring Bird Count. No fees, but some sites require a State Parks pass or pre-registration. Bring binoculars, scopes for the reservoir counts, field guide, and lunch. Everyone welcome to help—more eyes see more birds.

Friday, May 8

Cherry Creek Reservoir

Leader: Bob Brown (303-478-5243)

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Marina on west side (near Cherry Creek High School) in Cherry Creek State Park. State Parks pass required.

Saturday, May 9

Lower Bear Creek

Leader: Chuck Aid (303-503-2973) (caid@ecentral.com) and Michael Kiessig

Contact leader in advance, if you plan to go. One section, Marston Lake, has a limited number of spaces available on a first-come, first-served basis, as well as requiring advance completion and submission to the leader of a Denver Water waiver.

Barr Lake State Park

Leader: Amy Morton (571-480-3113) (amylmorton@yahoo.com)

Meet at 6 a.m. at Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. Exit I-76 at Bromley Lane; go east about ¼ mile and turn right (south) on Lark Bunting Lane, to end of road. State Parks pass required.

Continued on page 9



Solitary Sandpiper, May 5, 2014. *Ira Sanders*



Blackburnian Warbler, an eastern warbler occasionally seen in Colorado. *Ira Sanders*

SPRING BIRD COUNT *continued from page 8*

Waterton. Downstream

Leader: Urling Kingery (303-814-2723)

Meet at 6 a.m. at Audubon Center/Discovery Pavilion (left turn immediately after turning from Wadsworth [CO 121] onto Waterton\Roxborough road [4.4 miles south of C470] and before the DOW parking lot for Waterton Canyon). Wear long pants (not shorts) due to bare-leg-unfriendly plants such as poison ivy, thistles, and knapweed for a 4 to 5 mile hike.

Chatfield State Park

Leader: Joey Kellner (303-978-1748)

Meet at 6 a.m. at West (Deer Creek) entrance to park. State Parks pass required.

Sunday, May 10

Castlewood Canyon State Park

Leader: Tom Halverstadt (303-618-6730) (thavs1@comcast.net)

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at old entrance. From CO 86, 0.5 miles west of Franktown, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Rd, go two miles to old entrance. State Parks pass required.

Barr Lake periphery

Leader: Dick Anderson (303-757-4582)

Meet at 7:30 a.m. on access road to entrance station at Barr Lake State Park. This trip does not involve much walking; good for people with limited mobility or stamina.

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Urling Kingery (303-814-2723)

Space limited; contact leader to register.

Field Trips

Continued from page 8

then follow the signs for Mt. Falcon to the upper parking area.

We will explore Ponderosa Pine woodland habitat for nesting birds. We should see Cordilleran Flycatchers, Dusky Grouse, Plumbeous Vireos, Mountain and Western Bluebirds, Pygmy Nuthatch, Western Tanagers.

Much of this trip is in sun. Bring hat, sunscreen, bug spray, lots of water, hearty snacks, binoculars, scope (optional). Great photo opportunities.

Possible inclement weather. Bring layers and rain gear.

Please register online or call the leader.

Sedalia to Cheesman

Saturday, May 30

6:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Chris Blakeslee & Paul Sling-sby (Email: ChrisABla@aol.com Phone: 303-694-4670)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet the leaders at the U.S. Post Office in Sedalia. Take Hwy 85 to Sedalia in Douglas County; turn southwest on Hwy 67; drive through Sedalia over 2 major sets of railroad tracks.

The U.S. Post Office is on the northwest (right) side of Hwy 67.

We will target 8 woodpecker species including American Three-toed, Lewis's, and Red-headed Woodpeckers, and other nesting mountain species.

Group will be off-trail walking in moderate terrain for a total of 1 to 2 miles with minimal altitude gain.

Bring lunch, water, and clothing adequate for changeable weather. We will be back in Sedalia by 4 p.m. **Preregistration required. Please register online or contact the leaders.**

Continued on page 10

Field Trips

Continued from page 9

Cherry Creek State Park (Arapahoe County)

Sunday, May 31

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 15

Directions: Enter at the EAST entrance to the Park from South Parker Road.

NOTE: this is NOT the regular meeting site for most previous trips.

Go past the entrance kiosk and take the first left turn. Continue on this road, past the east boat ramp and turn left to the "East Shades, Picnic Shelters," as shown on the park map, located on the east shore of the lake.

This is a very active time for birds in the park and we should have a great variety. Habitats include deep water, marshlands, mixed grasses, and cottonwoods.

We will start by exploring the area around the Tower Loop; move south to the Swim Beach, Pelican Point, Shop Creek, 12 Mile, and end at the Prairie Loop.

Bring water and snacks. Scopes are useful. Sunscreen and bug repellent are necessary.

We will carpool to the various stops. Cumulative walking distance: 1 mile.

Please register online or contact the leader.

—Scheduled by Karen von Saltza

RMBO 2015 summer nature camps

RMBO provides summer nature camps for ages 2–17. Day camps are at RMBO's Environmental Learning Center at 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO. The overnight camps for ages 12–14 and 15–17 are in Rocky Mountain National Park.

To register for RMBO's summer nature camps or obtain half, full, or partial scholarship information, please contact Tyler Edmondson at 303-650-4348x15 or <tyler.edmondson@rmbo.org> or visit <www.rmbo.org/v3/>.



Yellow-headed Blackbird. *Chuck Hundertmark*



Goose with goslings, Washington Park. *Chuck Hundertmark*

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016) mammershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2015) willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016) wddriscoll@gmail.com
Candice Johnson (2015) candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2017) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Meredith McBurney (2015) meredithmcburney@msn.com
Ira Sanders (2017) zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Karen von Saltza (2017) kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Lynn Willcockson (2017) lynniz2698@aol.com
Bill Wuerthele (2015) wuerthel@ecentral.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund 303-906-8044 kahaglund1@aol.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	720-381-3314
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May	Jackie King	720-381-3314
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August	Jackie King	720-381-3314
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	720-381-3314
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Conservation

Meredith McBurney meredithmcburney@msn.com

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

Field Trips

Karen von Saltza kvonsaltza@yahoo.com

Grants

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Web Administration (<http://dfobirds.org>)

Mary Geder admin@dfobirds.org
Kay Niyo admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill d_d_hill@comcast.net

CFO Website

<http://cobirds.org>

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list cobirds@googlegroups.com

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

Nameplate photo of Lark Bunting pair by Lee Farrell

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles. © 2015 Denver Field Ornithologists. All Rights Reserved.

Welcome, new members: Mindy Densmore, Englewood; Jim Esten, Denver; Joanna Flanagan, Lone Tree; Gregg Goodrich, Brighton; Sara Hanrahan and Jacob Hinkle, Denver; Phoenix Kwan, Broomfield; Sharon Minzer, Denver; Jill Moeller, Littleton; Nicky and Gene Ryan, Aurora; Linda and Lou Skoff, Aurora; Sue Twiford, Denver

Upcoming Speakers

Nathan Pieplow April 27
"More Bird Songs"

**Nate Warning and
Lauryn Benedict** Aug. 24
"Rocks in Rock Wren Nests"

Ted Floyd Sept. 28
"Birding in the Posthuman Age"

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$	20
☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$	35
☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21)	\$	5
☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation	\$	_____
Total	\$	_____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting
Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742
Featured This Month
Developing Birding Leaders
Weather Presentation
How to Cancel



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/JUNE 2015/VOL 51 NO 6

HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG

Field Trips

Fowler and North Spring Brook Trails (Boulder County)

Saturday, June 6

7:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Paula Hansley (Email: plhansley@gmail.com Phone: 720-890-2628)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the NE corner of the intersection of Highways 93 and 170. Carpool 3 miles west to the trailhead where parking is limited.

We will hike on a smooth, uphill trail/road south to the Boulder Canal (2.8 mi. round trip).

The trail parallels the steeply dipping Dakota hogback and a recent burn area where Lewis's Woodpeckers nested last year!

Habitats range from dense shrubbery to open ponderosa pine forest. Fantastic views of the grasslands and mesas south of Boulder.

Migrants and residents in the bushes with swifts and falcons overhead. Last year, highlights were a Northern Goshawk, Lewis's Woodpeckers, and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Bring water and snack.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Bluff Lake Nature Center

Sunday, June 7

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM

A.J. Gest (Email: offsetaj@comcast.net Phone: 303-994-2420)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: From I-70 East, go

Continued on page 2

Ptarmigan Award goes to Hundertmark

by Lynn Willcockson

The prestigious Ptarmigan Award for outstanding, loyal, and meritorious service to the DFO and the advancement of bird study in Colorado was presented to DFO outgoing President Chuck Hundertmark at the DFO annual membership meeting on April 27, 2015.

The Ptarmigan Award is presented to a DFO member who has voluntarily provided time and extra service for the benefit of DFO. It was initiated in 1988 and in the past 27 years has been awarded to more than 20 DFO members.

Chuck was past president of the New Mexico Ornithological Society prior to moving to Colorado. He served DFO tirelessly for the past four years as president—more years than any other president.

During that time Chuck enabled DFO to accomplish the following new organizational improvements: revised bylaws; *Lark Bunting* design, editor, and graphic designer; set up an Investigative Committee and Finance Committee; field trip program, director, and Field Trip Leader Manual and Standards

Continued on page 3

Meatloaf on a stick!

The joy of learning about one bird



From the President

Joe Roller

I fondly recall writing reports in the “old days.” In the 6th grade, the topic might have been “Turtles.” I’d crack open the *Encyclopedia Americana*, supplement it with a field guide’s description of turtles, check out a terrapin tome from the Hannibal Public Library, and spread them all around on the living room rug.

Then, with a #2 pencil in hand, I would open my Big Chief tablet (this was in the days before spiral notebooks). Read a little, write a little—don’t just copy—add a story about the mud turtles I remembered seeing on a hot afternoon at Zeke Bonta’s pond. Combine facts from all these sources and put them into the required essay format.

For extra credit I’d search sagging shelves of National Geographic and cut out some photos or insert a stanza from a turtle poem:

Continued on page 2

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

south on Havana Street and left onto E 29th Dr, which then joins Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

Continue on Martin Luther King Jr Blvd to Bluff Lake Nature Center in the park on left side.

Bluff Lake offers a great range of habitat: wetland, yucca, and large cottonwoods. This attracts a variety of raptors and song-birds.

Portable toilets are on site but no potable water. Paths are easy walking trails. We'll be walking 1 to 1.5 miles.

Bring plenty of water, sun-screen. Scopes are optional.

Register online or contact leader to register.

**Reynolds Park and Pine Valley Ranch (Jefferson County)
Saturday, June 13
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM**

Mark Amershek (Email: mamershek@msn.com Phone: 303-329-8646)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: From Hwy 73 in Conifer, CO, travel south on US 285 S for 0.3 miles, slightly right onto Kennedy Gulch Rd for 0.1 mi.

Take the first left toward S Foxton Rd. Turn left onto S Foxton Rd (Hwy 97) for 5.6 mi to Reynolds Park at 14070 S Foxton Rd, Conifer, CO 80433.

Meet at Reynolds Park parking lot.

The morning will be spent at Reynolds Open Space and then we will drive to Pine Valley Ranch for lunch and more birding in the afternoon.

Certain parts of the trails are narrow and steep and can be difficult walking, especially at Reynolds. Total walking is about 5 miles for both locations.

Continued on next page

FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued from page 1

My turtle is the sporting sort.
His sports are all extreme.
He got so good at sleeping
that he joined the napping team.

My turtle education came from many sources.

Nowadays I do a similar thing, but the array of books on the carpet has morphed into windows on a computer screen and the living room rug is now a hard swivel chair. I turn to just as many sources to study a bird in depth, though it was easier to stay on task in 1957, when the only distraction while using Volume T of the encyclopedia might be flipping a page to the article on Tutankhamun, King. The distractions on today's internet? Are you kidding?

The best hours of my life are now spent birding, trying to recapture the magical May morning when the neighborhood trees dripped with Myrtle Warblers and a voice in the hedge whistled for "Old Sam Peabody Peabody Peabody" (Sam never responded). And now I enhance birding experiences by learning as much as I can about one bird at a time.

What if we apply the multi-source study method to a single bird? What if we apply it to the American Woodcock recently at Bobcat Ridge in Larimer County, viewed by hundreds thanks to ranger Karl Manderbach's protection of the bird and its habitat and willingness to help eager birders?

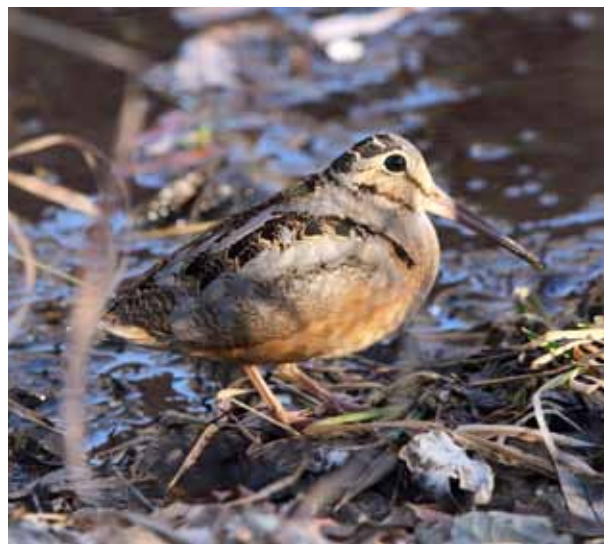
I studied that woodcock with binoculars, examined it through a scope, snapped some photos, looked at my field guide, and then shared my excitement with the other birders on woodcock patrol. After jotting a few field notes, I had still not had enough.

I hurried home, and like a kid spreading books on the carpet, I scrutinized four other field guides and a shorebird book, learning a new tidbit from each. I looked up the Latin name. Online I listened to woodcock calls and

saw a jaw-dropping number of woodcock photos from all angles, some hidden so well in leaf litter that they made "Where's Waldo?" seem simple.

I read about the bird's behavior (it sits still), flight style (it struggles to keep aloft), walking style (it shuffles and bobs), and courtship (it arrives on the breeding ground,

Continued on page 3



American Woodcock, Bobcat Ridge, Larimer Co., CO, 16 January 2015. Glenn Walbek

The Ptarmigan Award



Denver Field Ornithologists

presents to **Chuck Hundertmark**

*for outstanding, loyal and meritorious service to the
Denver Field Ornithologists and the advancement of bird study
in Colorado on this 27th day of April 2015.*

PTARMIGAN AWARD, continued from page 1

and Best Practices; liability waiver; newly designed DFO interactive website; historian; and reorganization of the board structure and a Policy Manual, which will assist the Nominating Committee in recruiting new officers and directors.

Additionally, Chuck regularly leads DFO field trips and assists in Colony Watch, a program sponsored by Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) to monitor nesting aquatic birds in Colorado. He served on the RMBO board to help provide leadership in establishing a better structure and more efficient organization.

DFO is pleased to present the 2015 DFO Ptarmigan Award to Chuck Hundertmark.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued from page 2

where there is a *peent*-up need to get busy). I gleaned as many factlets as I could.

When I cracked open one of my favorite reference books, *Pete Dunne's Essential Field Guide Companion*, I found the best nickname of any bird, ever! Pete calls the American Woodcock "meatloaf on a stick." The pleasure of knowing as much as I could about this chunky worm-eater was intense.

But we don't need to wait for a rarity to apply this method. Try picking any one bird, rare or common, from each day in the field for intense, in-depth study. Don't just stop at identification. Study, read, listen, view, and learn about that one bird. See it as much more than a collection of field marks, and learn so much that you yourself could write the best 6th grade essay ever.

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

Mark Amershek and Bruce Neuman are co-leaders.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Meyer Ranch Park

Sunday, June 14

6:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Karen Drozda (Email: drozforte@AOL.com Phone: 303-388-0891)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 18

Directions: Meet at the Park-n-Ride behind the Clock Tower on the NW corner of Morrison Road and C-470. We will carpool from this spot to the Meyer Ranch Park near Conifer.

Explore this historic ranch and its moist meadow and woodland habitats.

Expected birds: Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Warbling Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Evening Grosbeak.

Bring hat, sunscreen, bug spray, binoculars, camera, snacks, and water. Wear clothes for possible inclement weather.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Keith Owens's Native Prairie Restoration Site and Dodd Reservoir

Sunday, June 14

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Mary Geder (Email: mfg5000@live.com Phone: 303-986-6127)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 6

Directions: Meet in Boulder at the Tom Watson parking lot across from Coot Lake on 63rd Street just north of the Diagonal Highway #119.

Leaders: Steve Jones and Petrea Mah.

This is a joint field trip orga-

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

nized by the Boulder County Audubon Society (BCAS).

Join us for a hike through 70 acres of a former tree farm that is being restored to a native shortgrass prairie.

We will do a breeding bird survey to document changes in avifauna. In hedge rows between the plots are many native and exotic trees. This trip should be fascinating to both botanists and birders.

Afterward we will stop at BCAS's Dodd Reservoir prairie to see how our restoration efforts are progressing.

Funds for this revegetation were provided by a DFO Grant. Bring snack, water, and sunscreen.

Only online registrations will be accepted for this trip.

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)

Sunday, June 14

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP. From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

This is a half-day trip passing through many diverse, important habitats in three miles.

Trails could be slippery, so dress accordingly. Bring water and snacks; lunch optional. Beginning birders welcome.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Continued on next page

Last Month's Program: *Listen to her sing*

Tim Johnson

On Monday, April 27, we were treated to an intriguing, well-organized presentation by Nathan Pieplow, writing instructor at the University of Colorado in Boulder, and author of the forthcoming *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds*, scheduled for publication in 2017.

Titled "Listen to her sing," Nathan presented concepts concerning bird vocalization that I, at least, have not thought about very carefully. These concern the differences between songs and calls, vocalization meshing by males and females, and geographic distribution of female birdsong.

Nathan began by citing the work of William Homan Thorpe, a pioneering British ornithologist who initiated the use of sound spectrography to study birdsong.

Thorpe attempted to discriminate between *songs* and *calls* using six criteria. *Songs* were learned, complex, occurred in the breeding season, functioned for territoriality and/or courtship, and were sung mostly by males in more than one version. *Calls* were innate, simple, sung all year, functioned for alarm or contact, and were vocalized as a single version by all ages and sexes.

Nathan demonstrated the fuzziness of these concepts with several recordings, notably the Black-capped Chickadee's *fee beeyee* vocalization. It is learned, simple, sung all year, territorial in function, has one version, and is sung mostly by males. Song or call? The *chickadee dee dee dee* vocalization is also a mix of these criteria, meeting the "call" definition except it is learned and complex.

To further complicate matters, female singing is a matter of geography. In the tropics, female singing is the norm. Nathan said 71% of tropical songbird females are vocalists. This could imply that singing by females is the ancestral condition. Indeed, testosterone treatment can induce females of some species to sing like males, suggesting that they may have lost the urge to vocalize but not the ability.

Nathan described different categories of female vocalization. He accompanied this part of his talk with recordings. I recommend the website www.xeno-canto.org. Nathan and Andrew Spencer have uploaded many recordings there and I've referenced a few of them (and those of other recording enthusiasts).

To hear the recordings, go to the website search box and type in (for example) nr:109035 for male cardinal, then click on the "play" button (extreme left) when the song description comes up. The *nr*: is crucial!

Nathan's categories include

- Females that sound like males, e.g., Northern Cardinal (male: nr:109035; female: nr:169226); Black-headed Grosbeak; White-throated Sparrow.
- Females that sound kind of like males, e.g., Bullock's Oriole and House Wren (nr:101247, a nesting pair).
- Females with a unique song, e.g., Canyon Wren. This is my favorite! The male cascades down the scale, the female cascades up (nr:102260, a pair).

Continued on page 5

A characteristic female vocalization in many species is a “rattle” call in response to a male, which is sometimes inserted into the male song. Examples include Carolina Wren (nr:109027); Brown-headed Cowbird (nr:13599); Red-winged Blackbird (nr:177303).

Some birds sing duets, for example the Pied-billed Grebe (nr:109907). In this amazing recording, the male and female alternate notes. Other examples include Black Rail and Least Grebe.

Other species do complicated duets, which can sound like a single bird, e.g., Happy Wren (nr:190627). Such duets could be an adaptation for the tropics, a situation in which territories need defending all year rather than a few weeks.

The website <www.xeno-canto.org> is very rewarding and more accessible than the Macaulay Library. Have fun with it! I look forward to Nathan's *Peter-son Field Guide to Bird Sounds*.

DFO annual membership meeting

by Kay Niyo

DFO President Chuck Hundertmark opened the April 27, 2015 annual business meeting in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science Ricketson Auditorium. Chuck thanked each current DFO officer and board member and described the contributions of each.

The DFO Nominating Committee consisted of Bill Wuerthele, chair, Mary Keithler, and Joe Roller. There were no nominations from the floor and the following officers and board members were elected.

Officers (one-year term):

Joe Roller	President
Bob Shade	Vice President
Mary Geder	Treasurer
Kay Niyo	Secretary
Mary Cay Burger	Membership Chair

Board of Directors (three-year term):

Will Burt
Kristine Haglund
Candice Johnson
Chris Rurik

CFO Board Member Joe Roller announced that CFO awarded their Landowner Appreciation Award to DFO members Ira and Tammy Sanders in Golden for being such good hosts welcoming the birding public to view their rosy-finch flocks all winter.

Lynn Willcockson presented the DFO Ptarmigan Award to Chuck Hundertmark for outstanding, loyal, and meritorious service to the Denver Field Ornithologists and for the advancement of bird study in Colorado. See article in this issue. Nathan Pieplow presented a program on “Listen to her sing.” See article in this issue.

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

Lyons Area (Boulder and Larimer County)

Saturday, June 20

8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Raymond Davis (Email: davis@greenspeedisp.net Phone: 303-823-5332)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Lyons Park-n-Ride 1/2 block south of Main St on 4th Ave (by the skateboard park and visitor center w/bathrooms).

This will be Davis's usual trip but with modifications as needed due to remaining flood effects.

Probably no rarities, but should get good looks at nesting birds around Lyons and in Davis's 35 birdhouses.

Might see bobolink, herons, 4 swallows, 1–2 eagles, 2 wrens, 2 chickadees, 4–6 finches, 3 jays, 3 woodpeckers, 2 bluebirds, 2 nuthatches, dipper, grosbeak, catbird, 3 flycatchers, 3–4 sparrows, hummingbirds, and much more.

We'll check out the flood damage. Walk level ground for 1–3 miles, bird by car, and then eat lunch on Davis's decks.

Good photo opportunities likely and all are welcome. Wheelchair accessible.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Mt. Falcon Park (Jefferson County)

Sunday, June 21

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen Drozda (Email: drozforte@AOL.com Phone: 303-388-0891)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 18

Directions: Meet at upper parking lot of west side of Mount

Continued on page 6

Field Trips

Continued from page 5

Falcon Park. From C-470 and U.S. 285 South, turn right at the Indian Hills exit to Parmalee Gulch Road.

Follow Parmalee Gulch Road for approximately 2.5 miles to Picutis Road, turn right at Picutis, then follow the signs for Mt. Falcon to the upper parking area.

We will explore this ponderosa pine habitat. Expected birds: Western Bluebird, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Rock Wren, Dusky Grouse, Western Tanager, Townsend's Solitaire.

Much of this trip involves moderate climbing in the sun. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, camera, hat, sunscreen, bug spray.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Bailey Nesting Area, Summit County

Thursday, June 25

6:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Paul Slingsby & Chris Blakeslee (Email: paslingsby@comcast.net Phone: 303-422-3728)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the lower end of the Stegosaurus Park-n-Ride.

From I-70, exit 259, drive south under I-70 and take the second left turn into the Park-n-Ride. We will carpool 65 miles from there to the Bailey Nesting Area.

The trailhead road, about 4 miles, can be driven by most passenger cars. The trail is a moderately steep 4-wheel drive road with some off-trail walking.

We will walk less than 3 miles with minimal altitude gain.

Continued on next page

Using eBird Targets to fill out birder lists

by Chuck Hundertmark

I've come to think of Colorado's North Park as my birding "patch." Though it's a bit of a drive from Lafayette, I've been conducting colonial waterbird surveys there with Paul Slingsby and other volunteers since 2003.

I'm heading up there tomorrow to see how migration is shaping up and perhaps add a few species to my Jackson County list. This year, I'll be helped by a new eBird tool, eBird Targets.

Introduced last year, eBird Targets allows birders to see what birds have been found in a region that are needed on the birder's list. Last year, I used the beta version of this tool to prepare for a Mexico trip. I was able to generate a list of species that I could find in the Yucatan that I needed for my Mexico list.

Here's how it works. When you open eBird, select the "Explore Data" tab at the top of the page.



On the lower right side of the window that opens, under the heading "Species You Need" click on the "Target Species" link.



This will open a window that lets you define your search. In the "Show species observed in" field, you enter the name of a county, state, country, or other region where you plan to bird. Then, you can specify the months you want to search using pull-down menus.

In the example below, I've selected April and April to limit my search to only one month. Finally, beside "That I need for my," you can specify what area

Continued on page 7

Thank you for your contribution to the Research, Education, and Conservation Grant Fund: Adrianna Araya, Kathy Bollhoefer

USING eBIRD TARGETS, continued from page 6

and period you want to search. I selected “Jackson County” and “Life” list. Using the pull-down menu, I could have specified my Colorado or United States list. I could have limited the search to my year list as well.



Once you click “Show Species,” a window opens with the list of species seen in the region specified during the period requested that you need for your eBird list. The example below shows the top of the list of 37 species I need for my Jackson County life list.

For each species, the list shows the frequency with which the species appears among eBird lists for the location and period. For example, Brown-capped Rosy-Finches showed up on 6.9 percent of April Jackson County eBird lists. There is also a link to a map that will show you where the species has been observed.



SPECIES NAME	FREQUENCY (%)	Map
1. Brown-capped Rosy-Finch	6.94301	Map
2. White-breasted Nuthatch	2.89125	Map
3. Rock Pigeon	2.31963	Map
4. Black Rosy-Finch	1.54443	Map
5. General Owl	1.35135	Map
6. Snow Goose	1.15833	Map

Obviously, this tool’s usefulness will depend on how many of your observations you’ve entered in eBird. It’s a good incentive to enter old birding lists in eBird. I’m still working on entering my backlog of lists on eBird. Meanwhile, I’m hoping I’ll have Brown-capped Rosy-Finches and White-breasted Nuthatches on my Jackson County list by the time you read this.

Annual RMBO BBQ for the Birds

Join many birders on May 21 for Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory’s 12th annual picnic and member get-together! The BBQ for the Birds is free and open to the public with a \$5 suggested donation.

Go birding around Barr Lake at 4 p.m. with RMBO biologists and members. Enjoy a delicious BBQ dinner at 6 p.m. with New Belgium beer, live music from Martin Gilmore, a silent auction, and a celebration of RMBO’s future.

See <<http://www.rmbo.org/v3/>> for more details. Old Stone House at Barr Lake, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane, Brighton, CO.

Field Trips

Continued from page 6

We hope to see mountain nesting species and will likely find nests. Moose have been seen in this area.

Bring lunch, water, and clothing adequate for a mountain shower. We will be back at Stegosaurus by 5 PM.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Arapahoe NWR, North Park, Walden

**Saturday, June 27
5:00 AM - 9:00 PM**

Chris Goulart (Email: cgoulart001@comcast.net
Phone: 586-764-2126)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 6

Directions: Depart from Fort Collins Marriott, 350 E. Horse-tooth Road, Fort Collins CO 80525. Phone 970-226-5200.

North Park has the most breeding waterfowl in CO. Will explore high plateau of the Arapahoe NWR and surrounding area.

We will visit Cameron Pass by 7 AM, Lake John, Walden Reservoir, and the Moose Visitor Center.

Target birds include American Three-toed Woodpecker, Williamson’s Sapsucker, Gray Jay, Pine Grosbeak, Cassin’s Finch, Golden Eagle, Greater Sage-Grouse, and waterfowl.

Return to Ft Collins by 9 PM having birded North Park all day.

Trip will not involve significant walking, but will spend entire day above 9000 feet.

Members are encouraged to stay the night before in the Fort Collins area.

Bring food for 3 meals, snacks, lots of water, insect re-

Continued on page 8

Field Trips

Continued from page 7

pellent, sunscreen, and binoculars.

We will probably stop for lunch in Walden.

Trip leader will have a scope but at least one more would be beneficial.

Interested participants should email leader for further details.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Prospect Park (Wheat Ridge) Sunday, June 28

7:00 AM - 11:00 AM

George Mayfield (Email: georgemayfield@gmail.com
Phone: 720-289-9395)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about 3/4 mile and turn right (west) on 44th Avenue. Go one mile west.

Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south). Meet just inside the park in the lot right next to Prospect Lake.

We will check out the birds in the lake and then walk along the trails in this bird abundant habitat.

Register online or contact the leader to register.

—Scheduled by Mary Geder

Updated leader manual available online

by Karen von Saltza

The Field Trip Leader Manual and the Standards and Best Practices <<http://dfobirds.org/FieldTrips/Standards.aspx>> developed in 2014 by the Field Trip Leader Committee have been updated to include the new DFO website procedures.

The manual was written to explain the steps DFO asks its field trip leaders to follow and the standards and best practices they are expected to honor and uphold.

The advent of DFO's new website in August 2014, which facilitates online signup for field trips and leader reporting tasks from start to finish, brings a new level of sophistication to our program and is attracting new members to the organization.

The DFO Field Trip Program is growing rapidly. We are adding new trips every month and trying to bring variety to an already ambitious program. To continue bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the program we need new leaders to sign up and become certified.

Wouldn't you like to be part of DFO's success?

Wouldn't you like to become a DFO Field Trip Leader?

And thank you to all those who have!



American Avocet, Belmar Park, Jefferson Co., CO, 1 May 2015. Alistair Montgomery

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Joe Roller 303-204-0828 jroller9@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016) mammershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2018) willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016) wddriscoll@gmail.com
Kristine Haglund (2018) kahaglund1@aol.com
Candice Johnson (2018) candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2017) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Chris Rurik (2018) chrisrurik@gmail.com
Ira Sanders (2017) zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Karen von Saltza (2017) kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Lynn Willcockson (2017) lynnli2698@aol.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund 303-906-8044 kahaglund1@aol.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	720-381-3314
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May	Jackie King	720-381-3314
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August	Jackie King	720-381-3314
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	720-381-3314
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

Field Trips

Karen von Saltza kvonsaltza@yahoo.com

Grants

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Web Administration (<http://dfobirds.org>)

Mary Geder admin@dfobirds.org
Kay Niyo admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill d_d_hill@comcast.net

CFO Website

<http://cobirds.org>

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list cobirds@googlegroups.com

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

Nameplate photo of Lark Bunting pair by Lee Farrell

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles. © 2015 Denver Field Ornithologists. All Rights Reserved.

Welcome, new members:

Lee Aggers, Lakewood; Adrianna Araya, Lakewood; Alida Franco, Denver

Upcoming Speakers

Nate Warning and Aug. 24
Lauryn Benedict
“Rocks in Rock Wren Nests”

Ted Floyd Sept. 28
“Birding in the Posthuman Age”

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 20
☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 35
☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21)	\$ 5
☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Featured This Month

Listen to Her Sing

Officers, Board Elected

Using eBird Targets



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/JULY 2015/VOL 51 NO 7

HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG

Field Trips

Meyers Gulch past Walker Ranch, Boulder Saturday, July 4

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Paula Hansley (Email: plhansley@gmail.com Phone: 720-890-2628)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the East Boulder Recreation Center at South Boulder Road and 55th Street. Park at the west end of the main parking lot to assemble a car pool.

Meyers Gulch is part of Boulder County's Open Space system. We will take a lovely trail (at about 7,300 to 8,000 ft elevation) through ponderosa pines, aspens, meadows, and small willow carrs.

Several types of flycatchers, woodpeckers, sparrows, warblers, and other species will be seen in their breeding habitats.

Half-day trip. Bring lunch or good-sized snack and water.

Mt. Evans area (Jefferson and Clear Creek Counties)

Friday, July 10

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Lynn Willcockson (Email: LynnLiz2698@aol.com Phone: 303-757-7000)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 11

Directions: Meet at Fillius Park shelter house. Take I-70 west to exit 252 to Evergreen Parkway (Hwy 74).

Go 2.5 miles to the first traffic light and turn right into Fillius Park. We will arrange carpools

Continued on page 2

Share those perfect shots on Facebook

by Chris Rurik

It is a common feeling on DFO field trips: you manage to get a perfect picture of the Prairie Falcon on those red rocks—glamorously posed, in focus, and everything—and now you want to share it with all your coparticipants.

In the past, that meant scribbling down email addresses. (In the further-back-but-not-too-distant past, it meant showing slides at the monthly meeting.) Sharing photos and stories after field trips was complicated.

No longer. DFO has created a new forum for easily sharing photos and chatting with other members of the DFO community—an official Facebook group. Check it out!

The web address: [<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dfobirds/>](https://www.facebook.com/groups/dfobirds/).

Facebook functions as a natural DFO community center because of the ease with which it allows people to share with each other. Users of this new group are encouraged to share bird-related stories, requests for identification help, questions regarding bird behavior, updates on conditions at local birding hotspots, interesting observations, follow-up to field trips, etc. All kinds of interesting content have already been posted.

To join the group, log in to Facebook (you must be a Facebook user to join), navigate to the group page by using the link above or searching for “Denver

Continued on page 3



Swainson's Hawk, Aurora-Kelley Road Reservoir, 12 June 2015. Linda Broeren

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

for the 10-mile drive toward Mt. Evans.

Climbing up toward Mount Evans, we will pass through a variety of bird-rich habitats. We may go as high as 14,000 feet, with spectacular scenery on a clear day.

We will make a number of stops and take modest strolls, including Echo Lake.

Participants in past years have seen ptarmigan, Pine Grosbeaks, Rock Wrens, Brown-capped Rosy-Finches, and pipits on their breeding grounds. Mountain goats are a possibility.

Dress for changeable weather. Bring water, lunch, and snacks.

Register online or contact leader to register.

**Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)
Sunday, July 12
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP. From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

This is a half-day trip passing through many diverse, important habitats in three miles. Trails could be slippery, so dress accordingly.

Bring water and snacks; lunch optional. Beginning birders welcome.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Continued on next page

See One, Do One, Teach One!



From the President

Joe Roller

See One, Do One, Teach One. That maxim has been passed down from medical school professors to students ever since Galen wore a short white coat.

We heard that advice repeatedly on the hospital wards. Don't know how to use a sphygmomanometer? (Start off by learning how to spell it.) "Watch me take this patient's blood pressure," the instructor might advise. Then, "You do it on the other arm." Then, "Got it? Good. See that student over there with his shirt-tail hanging out? Teach him."

A pretty good formula for learning. When you first leaned in to watch someone do it well, you caught on to some of the tricks—especially for drawing blood or inserting a

chest tube. For brain surgery? Well, maybe you would need to see more than one.

But the idea worked well. "See one" to understand the motions, the technique. Then "do one" yourself under a watchful eye. Maybe you'd get it right the first time, maybe you'd need to try again. Ultimately, the best way to engrain knowledge was to "teach someone" to do it. Figure out the fine points by explaining them to a newbie. Learn the answers to questions you had not thought of. Learn how to fix things when they go wrong.

I thought I knew a lot about evolution—until I was asked to teach it to a class. That's when I discovered the gaps in my gray matter. Who knew that "quadruped" meant something different than "tetrapod"? I didn't, but when I had to teach the definitions and think up good examples for my students, I fully understood the terms myself.

The "See One, Do One, Teach One" process works wonders for learning to identify birds. When we go out on DFO field trips, we are shown birds high and low. Look at that! Hear that song? It's a chat. What's this over in the juniper? What do you notice about its tail?

Most of us progress to "do one," that is, make an ID on our own. It's more challenging than hearing bird names called out, but when you figure out the name of a bird yourself, the lessons stick with you longer.

Out at the lake all alone, one gull looks like another. I complain, "Why isn't there just one gull species—'*Larus vulgaris*'?" With no one around to name that bird, it's up to me to puzzle things out. I study the gull longer and notice that its mantle is slightly darker, its legs greenish, its bill heavier—not a Ring-billed Gull, but a Cal Gull. "Yes!"

"Doing one" on my own, I learn a lot. But only when I "teach one" do I get it down pat. Jim might ask, "Why is it an Eared Grebe?" I rack my brain to remember the points that distinguish this scrawny-necked paddler from its more robust cousin, the Horned Grebe, talking sideways to Jim the whole

Continued on page 3



FACEBOOK, *continued from page 1*

Field Ornithologists,” and click on the “Join Group” button. After approval by an administrator (which may take a few days), you will be free to post, comment, like, and tag on the website. Please contact Chris Rurik (chrisrurik@gmail.com) with any questions.

When uploading photos, please include information about where and when the photo was taken. You may want to copyright your photos before posting them. Shown are some recently posted photos.

Every few weeks the group’s banner photo will change to a recent shot by a DFO member, creating a rotating showcase of the best from our many field trips.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, *continued from page 2*

time. Then I remember each point of grebe distinction for life. And it’s not just about identifying birds, as the same three-part process works for learning their behavior, distribution, habitat, and preferred food. How did our DFO field trip leaders get so good? They teach.

I encourage everyone to go out and “teach one.” Maybe you can show your grandchild or your neighbor how to tell a finch from a sparrow. If you are shy, try explaining the field marks of a Mourning Dove to your dog! There may



Horned Grebe grabbed insect on water, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, OR, 7 May 2012. Kay Niyo

be no better ladder out of bashfulness, and Sparky will thrive on the attention.

Teach one to a kid, your partner, another birder. On every field trip there will be birders who know less than you. Pair up with them.

For if you really want to learn about birds, there is no better strategy than to See One, Do One, Teach One!

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

Cherry Creek State Park (Arapahoe County)

Sunday, July 12

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Jill Boice & A.J. Gest (Email: jill@booksandcats.net Phone: 303-863-7580)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 16

Directions: Enter the east side of Cherry Creek State Park via Lehigh off of Parker Road. Go just past the entrance station and turn left (south) at the first intersection.

The road bends and heads west with the reservoir ahead of you. Go about 1/4 mile, just past the next intersection. The parking for Pelican Point will be on your left.

This short afternoon trip is intended for **junior birders or new birders 10 or older and parents**. Bring your children or grandchildren who have an interest in nature.

We will meet at the water’s edge in hopes of seeing a variety of easy-to-find birds. Then we’ll take a short hike into the wetlands. Often at this time of day there will be deer visible.

An adult must accompany the child at all times. The adult must pre-register for the trip and must sign a waiver personally and one for the child.

Bring binoculars if you have them. Some binoculars and scopes will be available. We will provide some simple materials and snacks.

There is a restroom at the parking area. Wear appropriate footwear for wet and uneven ground. Please call Jill Boice with questions.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

Rocky Mountain National Park (Larimer County)

Thursday, July 16

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Edmund J Holub (Email:
edmund.holub@gmail.com
Phone: 303-979-2194)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 11

Directions: Meet at the RMNP
Visitor Center parking lot east
of the RMNP Beaver Meadows
entrance station on U.S. 36.

This will be a 3/4 to all-day
trip to Rocky Mountain National
Park, depending on the weather
and birds.

We are going on a weekday
to avoid weekend traffic in the
park, but will consolidate to
three cars, so keep that in mind
in your planning. Either you need
a parks pass or plan to ride with
someone who does.

Bring lunch and clothes for
changeable weather. Several
stops with easy to moderate hik-
ing.

Possible birds are Mountain
Bluebirds, Golden-crowned King-
let, Lincoln's Sparrow, flycatch-
ers, and woodpeckers, including
Williamson's Sapsucker.

**Register online or contact
leader to register.**

Genesee Park (Denver Mountain Parks)

Saturday, July 18

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Chris Rurik (Email:
chrisrurik@gmail.com
Phone: 253-225-7104)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: Meet at the Stego-
saurus parking lot just south of
I-70, exit 259. Drive under the
freeway to the second left turn.
The parking lot is at the base
of the Hogback, near the Hawk
Watch location.



Black-crowned Night-Heron, Bluff Lake Nature Center, DFO field trip, 7 June 2015. A. J. Gest

Our top goal will be Wil-
liamson's Sapsucker. Enjoy a
beautiful mountain park with
great species such as Western
Bluebird, Plumbeous Vireo,
Cordilleran Flycatcher, Western
Wood-Pewee, and Western
Tanager.

Relaxed pace, unpaved trails,
restrooms available. Bring
binoculars, plenty of water, and
dress for the weather.

**Register online or contact
leader to register.**

Golden Gate Canyon State Park Sunday, July 19

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Jill Boice (Email:
jill@booksandcats.net Phone:
303-863-7580)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: Meet at Golden
Gate Canyon State Park Visitor
Center, 92 Crawford Gulch Rd,
Golden CO 80403.

Randy Lentz's fabulous sum-

mer trip to Golden Gate Canyon
State Park. This park's various
habitats attract a wide diversity
of birdlife and great scenery.

Guest leader Randy knows this
park well, so expect an interest-
ing day.

From Golden, take Hwy 93
north about 1.5 miles to Golden
Gate Canyon Rd. Turn left and
continue for 13 miles to Craw-
ford Gulch Rd.

Turn right (north) and travel
200 yards to the park entrance
and visitor center. Try to carpool,
as parking in the park can be
limited.

We will make short hikes, but
they may be steep in places.
Dress for the weather. Bring
snacks, lunch, and insect repel-
lent. Birding after lunch optional,
depending on the weather.

**Register online or contact
leader to register.**

Continued on next page



Mississippi Kite watching over nest in Pueblo City Park, DFO field trip, 23 May 2015. Kay Niyo



Snowy Egret, Bluff Lake Nature Center, DFO field trip, 7 June 2015. A. J. Gest

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

Riverside Cemetery/Platte River, Denver County Sunday, July 19

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Kevin Corwin (Email: kevygudguy@aol.com Phone: 720-482-8454)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Entrance is at 5201 Brighton Blvd in Denver. Gates open at 8 a.m.

If you arrive before the gate is unlocked, do not park on or near the railroad crossing at the cemetery entrance. In the cemetery, we will park on the west side of the office building.

We will wander the paths of the cemetery and check its wetlands and woodlands, then exit the back gate to the river.

We'll walk along the riverside path to Northside Park where we'll check the pond and fields, then retrace our steps back to the cemetery.

Rudimentary restroom facilities are available in a shed on the east side of the office building; better ones will be available in the office at the trip's end.

Bring water, snacks, and footwear for dirt or mud paths. Scopes optional.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Fairmount Cemetery/High Line Canal (Denver County) Saturday, July 25

7:45 AM - 11:15 AM

A.J. Gest (Email: offsetaj@comcast.net Phone: 303-994-2420)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 16

Directions: Use the Fairmount Cemetery north entrance on E Alameda Ave that is just east of

Continued on page 6

Field Trips

Continued from page 5

S Quebec St. Follow the signs within the cemetery a short distance south of the entrance gate to the parking lot near the Chapel in the Pines in the north-west corner of the Fairmount Cemetery.

Dearly Departed Birding Tour. Note that we are using the E Alameda Ave. entrance on the North side, as the Quebec entrance is under construction. See details above.

Join us as we walk among some of Denver's most famous and infamous legends, in what is listed as Colorado's largest outdoor arboretum. This will be an easy 1.5 to 2 mile walk on mostly paved drives and pathways.

This area has the potential for a good variety of summer song birds, as well as our backyard regulars. Bring water, binoculars, hat, and sunscreen. Scopes are optional. There are restrooms available in the Mausoleum after 9 a.m., and we will plan our route accordingly.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Barr Lake State Park

Sunday, July 26

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Gregg Goodrich (Email: GreggGoodrich@gmail.com
Phone: 303-655-9135)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the Barr Lake SP Visitor Center.

From Denver, take east I-76 to Bromley Lane, exit 22. Go east on Bromley Lane to Piccadilly Rd, then turn south for ~2 miles to park entrance and follow road to Visitor Center.

A summer morning at Barr



American Coot and chick, Cattail Crossing, Pueblo Co., CO, 23 May 2015. Kay Niyo



Barn Swallow, Denver Botanic Gardens, 28 May 2015. Linda Broeren

Lake. We will bird north and south of the Nature Center.

If time allows, we will drive up to the boat launch and search in that area.

Always a great diversity of birds at Barr Lake, where several habitats converge and offer some surprises.

Lunch and scopes optional. Bring water, snacks, and insect repellent, as sometimes low-lying areas around the lake can be buggy. State Parks pass or day pass required.

Register online or contact leader to register.

—Scheduled by Jill Boice

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Joe Roller 303-204-0828 jroller9@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016) mammershek@msn.com
 Will Burt (2018) willburt43@gmail.com
 Mary Driscoll (2016) wddriscoll@gmail.com
 Kristine Haglund (2018) kahaglund1@aol.com
 Candice Johnson (2018) candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
 Tina Jones (2017) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
 Chris Rurik (2018) chrisrurik@gmail.com
 Ira Sanders (2017) zroadrunner14@gmail.com
 Karen von Saltza (2017) kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
 Lynn Willcockson (2017) lynnli2698@aol.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund 303-906-8044 kahaglund1@aol.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February	Jackie King	720-381-3314
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May	Jackie King	720-381-3314
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August	Jackie King	720-381-3314
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Jackie King	720-381-3314
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

Field Trips

Karen von Saltza kvonsaltza@yahoo.com

Grants

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Web Administration (<http://dfobirds.org>)

Mary Geder admin@dfobirds.org
 Kay Niyo admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

DMNS Liaison

Jeff Stephenson jstephenson@dmns.org

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler mkeithler@yahoo.com
 Backup contact, Dave Hill d_d_hill@comcast.net

CFO Website

<http://cobirds.org>

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list cobirds@googlegroups.com

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

Nameplate photo of Lark Bunting pair by Lee Farrell

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles. © 2015 Denver Field Ornithologists. All Rights Reserved.

**Welcome, new members: Carol Harmon, Denver;
 John and Barb Haymond, Centennial; Susan Jarrell, Parker; Mark Obmascik,
 Denver; Thomas Wilberding, Boulder**

Upcoming Speakers

**Nate Warning and
Lauryn Benedict** Aug. 24
“Rocks in Rock Wren Nests”

Ted Floyd Sept. 28
“Birding in the Posthuman Age”

Arvind Panjabi Oct. 26
TBD

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | | |
|---|----|-------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ | 20 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ | 35 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ | 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ | _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Featured This Month

New Facebook Page

Teach One!

July Field Trips



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/AUGUST 2015/VOL 51 NO 8

HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG

Field Trips

Wheat Ridge Greenbelt

Saturday, August 1

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Mary Geder (Email: mfg5000@live.com Phone: 303-986-6127)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about 0.75 mile and turn right (west) on 44th Ave. Go one mile west.

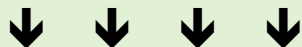
Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south). Meet just inside the park in the lot right next to Prospect Lake.

This will be a half-day trip, easy walking, accessible for mobility impaired individuals. Bring water and a snack; lunch optional.

Good trip for novice birders and new members.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Continued on page 2



Reminder:
DFO membership meetings begin August 24! Nat Warning and Lauryn Benedict will provide a fascinating presentation on "Rocks in Rock Wren Nests"!

'Are you looking at birds?'



© Tom Wilberding

From the President

Joe Roller

"Are you looking at birds?" How often have I been asked that question by a passerby as I gazed across a lake, intent on counting Bufflehead?

I ask myself, "Can I count the ones underwater?" before I snap out of a reverie to answer, "Yes! I'm looking at those little ducks. They remind me of bathtub toys. Birding is great fun!"

Encouraging those conversations is a way to attract curious neophytes to join the DFO. It happened to me this spring on the shores of Grasmere Lake in Washington Park and again today as I stood in the check-out line at Ace Hardware.

Someone buying a wastebasket had noticed my embroidered cap.

In the old days we'd reach into a pocket or the glove box (who keeps gloves in there anymore?) and hand out the back page of *The Lark Bunting*, which doubled as a membership form.

Continued on page 2



Western Bluebird, Sedalia, CO, 30 May 2015. Mark Amershek

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

Chavez Trail and Beaver Brook Braille Trail

Sunday, August 2

6:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Paul Slingsby (Email: paslingsby@comcast.net
Phone: 303-422-3728)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 16

Directions: Meet at the lower end of the Stegosaurus Park-n-Ride. We will carpool from there.

From I-70, exit 259, turn left onto CO 26; drive under I-70 bridge and look for the Park-n-Ride on your left. We will carpool 6 miles to the trailhead.

Half-day trip. This will be a slow walk of about 2 miles on smooth, moderately steep trails with some unmaintained paths in aspen and ponderosa forests. Hope for fledglings.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Majestic View Nature Center Saturday, August 8

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Jackie King (Email: jackie.king@ccd.edu Phone: 720-381-3314)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Majestic View Nature Center, 7030 Garrison St, Arvada, CO 80004. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot.

From the East: Wadsworth Blvd to 68th Ave, west to Garrison St, north to the Nature Center parking lot.

From the West: Oberon Rd to 66th Ave, east to Garrison St, north to the Nature Center parking lot.

Bring water and snacks for a half-day trip walking on paths in a beautiful park.

Leader uses a wheelchair for mobility so the trip will be accessible.

Continued on next page

FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued from page 1

But that's outmoded. Instead, what I'd like to do nowadays is direct "wanna be birders" to our splendid website, expecting they'd be impressed, tag along on a field trip, get hooked on our hobby, and sign up.

But I am apologetic when I don't have a DFO business card in my wallet, as I scribble my email address on the back of a carwash receipt.

While counting bobbing ducks I was *not* wearing a Lark Bunting cap, but one with a magpie or a warbler design. Why not a DFO cap? Why not an eightieth anniversary cap?

Eight decades of field trips, programs, friendships, and work done by hundreds of sailors to keep the ship afloat. (Well, maybe the ship has listed at times, but it's now upright and shipshape). Thankfully, we have not been listers.

When the topic of DFO business cards and baseball caps came up at a recent board meeting, I learned that first we needed a usable logo. "What's the matter with the Lark Bunting logo we have now?" I inquired. "The one we see on the DFO website homepage?" (www.dfobirds.org)

The answer came back in the form of a question, "Where else do you see that logo? It's imprisoned there, and can't be enlarged, copied, or used for any other purpose."

Why not? As it turns out, a search party had been sent out to rummage about and find that logo stored on a hard drive somewhere. A hard drive? Are you kidding?

The logo finally turned up on a floppy disk. (A floppy disk? Kids, ask your grandma.) That technology was up-to-date in the 1980s, but it turns out that the poor bird consists of about 19 kilobytes of information, representing a handful of pixels.

And a few pixels are not nearly enough. The baseball cap people need about 85 gazillion (that's a technical term) pixels to produce an embroidered logo cap. When that obstacle was discovered, fear arose that our good ship would founder on a reef named "Not Enuf Pixels."

What do you think, DFO sailors? We'd like your opinion, please, by email (jroller9@gmail.com).

Do you think we should forge ahead and work with an artist to design a new Lark Bunting logo, one that is aesthetically pleasing, vibrant, distinctive, timeless, and scalable, one that can be used in any medium?

One board member quipped, "The club was founded eighty years ago, and it's time for a new logo. Let's do it now and then change it again every eighty years."

We expect to be cost conscious and carefully choose a final design we can be proud of, not to mention one that we can use as other bird clubs do. Not everyone will fall in love with it. But let's set the DFO ship's course to sail toward the Logo Archipelago. When we get there, we'll be looking at birds.

Early meeting minutes are now online

by Kris Haglund

Meeting minutes of the Colorado Bird Club/Denver Field Ornithologists of the 1960s and 1970s are now on the DFO website. Be sure and check them out at <<http://dfobirds.org/DFO/History.aspx>>.

An interesting topic of the time period is the first statewide convention of birders and birding organizations, which was initiated and organized by the Colorado Bird Club in 1963.

Your help is needed!

Did you know that the Denver Museum of Nature and Science Bailey Archives is the official repository for DFO documents? It's true.

However, there are some important items that are missing from the collection—meeting minutes from the late 1980s and early 1990s. If you have any of these documents, or know anyone who has, please contact Historian Kris Haglund at kris.haglund@dmns.org, (303-906-8044).

Kris is also interested in adding other documentation to the DFO collection, such as, but not limited to, correspondence about DFO matters and membership records.

If these items are hanging out in your house, garage, or storage facility, she can help you get them to a better place—the brand new archives collections facility at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

In addition, the discussion of the organization's name change began in 1962 and was finalized in January 1964.

You will also find discussions of bird-related issues of the time period and lots more.

While you're at it, don't forget to look at past issues of *The Lark Bunting* at <<http://dfobirds.org/LarkBunting/>>.

The text of the meeting minutes and *The Lark Bunting* issues is searchable, so enjoy!

Many thanks are due to the volunteers who have worked so hard transcribing the meeting minutes.

They are Carol Cochran, Kathanne Lynch, Beverly Postmus, Chris Rurik, and Yvonne Salfinger.

**Thank you for your contribution to the
Research, Education, and Conservation
Grant Fund: Weiss and Melissa Kallick**

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

Register online or contact leader to register.

Mt. Evans area (Jefferson and Clear Creek Counties)

Sunday, August 9

6:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Karen Drozda (Email: drozforte@AOL.com Phone: 303-388-0891)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at Fillius Park shelter house.

Take I-70 west to exit 252 to Evergreen Parkway (Hwy 74). Go 2.5 miles to the first traffic light and turn right into Fillius Park.

We will arrange carpools for the 10-mile drive toward Mt. Evans.

We will drive up Mt Evans as high as 14,000 feet.

In this very diverse habitat of spruce, fir, aspen, we will look for Pine Grosbeak, Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, possible ptarmigan, and sapsuckers. We will explore around Echo Lake.

Please prepare for an all-day mountain trip with appropriate clothing. Pack lunch and plenty of snacks and water.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Rueter-Hess Reservoir (Douglas Co.)

Sunday, August 9

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Mary Cay Burger (Email: mcburger3@juno.com Phone: 303-771-3431)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 16

Directions: Meet at Barr CCC Park, 10951 S Twenty Mile Rd, Parker, CO 80134, located on the SW corner of Main St and 20 Mile Rd.

We will bird there and later at the Rueter-Hess Reservoir,

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

which is open to the public only with entry permission.

Meet at the Barr CCC Park in Parker (see directions above), which is next to Cherry Creek, to check for riparian birds.

Shorebirds will have begun their southward migration. The next stop will be Rueter-Hess Reservoir, Parker Water Department's new reservoir not yet open to the public.

There we could see grassland species and waterfowl.

Tim Ryan, Parker Water Resources Operator, will be co-leader. Bring binoculars, snacks, water, and sunscreen.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)

Sunday, August 9

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP.

From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

This is a half day of walking that passes through most of the important habitats found in the park over a distance of about 3 miles.

Trails could be slippery or muddy, so dress accordingly. Bring water and snacks; lunch is optional.

Beginning birders are welcome.

Cosponsored with Denver Audubon.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Staunton State Park (Jefferson County)

Saturday, August 15

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Wendy Wibbens & Sue Summers (Email: wibbwj@aol.com Phone: 303-330-1175)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Take U.S. Highway 285 south to Shaffers Crossing, about 6 miles west of Conifer.

Turn north on Elk Creek Road and follow the signs 1.5 miles to the park entrance.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

Meet at the main parking lot at Staunton State Park (just past the entrance station).

Bring binoculars, water, hat, sunscreen, bug repellent, snacks, and sturdy hiking shoes; lunch optional.

This is a moderate level hike with potential for short, steep inclines. We will hike 2-4 miles

on either the Davis Ponds Trail or a portion of the Mason Creek Trail.

Habitat can include ponderosa pine, aspen, mountain riparian, meadows, and cliffs.

Species may include a variety of woodpeckers, thrushes, flycatchers, vireos, kinglets, nuthatches, and raptors as well as migrants.

Our focus will be on observing bird behavior, analyzing field marks, and sounds, for an in-depth learning experience.

All levels of birders welcome for this participatory style trip.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Roxborough State Park

Sunday, August 16

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Doris Cruze (Email: cruzeduo@aol.com Phone: 303-798-8072)

Continued on next page



McCown's Longspur, Laramie Co., CR 109, WY, 15 June 2015. Mark Amershek



Taking Flight campers enjoy a break on the Ouzel Falls Trail in Rocky Mountain National Park. *Tyler Edmondson*

DFO grants benefit young birders

by Tyler Edmondson

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory is currently in full-swing with its summer nature camps, which are being supported by DFO grants in a couple different ways.

First, RMBO staff members are enjoying the use of six, brand new, 2-way radios that were purchased with the financial assistance of one DFO grant.

Thanks to another DFO grant, three different campers were awarded scholarships to attend RMBO's overnight camps, "Taking Flight" (for 12–14 year-olds) and "On the Wing" (for 15–17 year-olds).

"Taking Flight" took place from June 14–19 near Rocky Mountain National Park, where 15 campers researched various species of birds and plants to create mini-field guides, which they presented to their families and RMBO staff members at the end of the week.

"On the Wing" was reintroduced into RMBO's summer camp schedule and to eight campers during the week of June 26–July 3 for the first time since hundreds of youth went through the program in the late 1990s and early 2000s.

This unique program taught campers how to design and implement mini-research projects/field investigations about birds. After writing scientific research papers to document their findings, campers presented their research to their families, RMBO staff and volunteers, and local natural resource professionals.

RMBO would like to thank and recognize DFO for helping to create successful, enriching experiences for campers this summer, and for its support with educating and inspiring the next generation of biologists, conservationists, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Take S Wadsworth Blvd past Chatfield SP to Waterton Rd on left.

Take Waterton Rd 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Road.

Turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd.

Turn left (east) onto Roxborough Park Rd and then turn immediately right (south) on Roxborough Rd and follow signs to the Park (2.2 miles).

State Parks pass or day pass required.

Bring binoculars, water, sturdy footwear, and snacks. Lunch optional, but there is a great place to picnic at the park.

Species list will probably include Lesser Goldfinch and Golden Eagle.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Staunton State Park (Jefferson County)

**Friday, August 21
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM**

Mark Amershek (Email: mamershek@msn.com Phone: 303-329-8646)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the Park-n-Ride at southwest corner of Hampden (CO 285) and Wadsworth to carpool to the park.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

Bruce Neuman will be coleader. This is a moderate hike on maintained trails for 3-4 miles total.

Habitat includes ponderosa pine, aspen, meadows, and cliffs.

Species may include woodpeckers, thrashers, flycatchers,

Continued on page 6

Field Trips

Continued from page 5

vireos, kinglets, nuthatches, and raptors. Bring snacks, lunch, water, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Belmar Historic Park Saturday, August 22 7:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Jackie King & Karleen Schofield
(Email: jackie.king@ccd.edu
Phone: 720-381-3314)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet in the parking lot near the lake. Belmar Historic Park is at 800 S Wadsworth Blvd in Lakewood.

From Alameda and Wadsworth go south on Wadsworth, turn west at the light on West Ohio Ave. Drive a short two blocks to the parking lot.

Bring snacks, water, and sunscreen for an easy walk around the ponds.

A good trip for beginners and accessible for a person with a disability.

Please register online or contact leader to register.

Barr Lake State Park Saturday, August 22 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Edward "Buzz" Schaumberg
(Email: EGSEAGLE171@aol.com
Phone: 303-478-4641)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Barr Lake SP Visitor Center.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

From Denver, take east I-76 to Bromley Lane, exit 22. Go east on Bromley Lane to Piccadilly Rd, then turn south for ~2 miles to park entrance and follow road to Visitor Center.

Bring snacks, lunch, and plenty of water. Trip may be 3/4 day



Mourning Dove, Star K Ranch, CO, 28 June 2015. Mark Amershek

depending on birds and weather. Trip can be easily modified to be accessible for a person with a disability. Beginners are welcome.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Chase Trip Saturday, August 29 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Chris Rurik (Email: chrisrurik@gmail.com Phone: 253-225-7104)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 7

Directions: Meet at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 6060 N Broadway to carpool.

Exit I-25 at 58th Ave, go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right.

For adventurous rarity-chasers. The leader will look at the rare bird alerts and plan a route to chase as many as possible.

Bring binoculars, scope, snacks, lunch, and plenty of water.

We will carpool in two cars and drivers will be reimbursed for mileage.

If there are no rarities being reported, we will find our own by heading to shorebird/migrant hotspots.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Prewitt and Jackson Reservoirs Sunday, August 30 5:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Joey Kellner (Email: vireo1@comcast.net Phone: 303-978-1748)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Meet at the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 6060 N Broadway to carpool.

Exit I-25 at 58th Ave, go west 2 blocks to Broadway, then north 2 blocks to parking lot on right.

State Parks pass and Jumbo Res/Prewitt Res access permit required.

This is an all-day trip so bring snacks, lunch, plenty of water, and bug spray.

Register online or contact leader to register.

—Scheduled by Jackie King

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Joe Roller 303-204-0828 jroller9@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016) mammershek@msn.com
 Will Burt (2018) willburt43@gmail.com
 Mary Driscoll (2016) wddriscoll@gmail.com
 Kristine Haglund (2018) kahaglund1@aol.com
 Candice Johnson (2018) candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
 Tina Jones (2017) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
 Chris Rurik (2018) chrisrurik@gmail.com
 Ira Sanders (2017) zroadrunner14@gmail.com
 Karen von Saltza (2017) kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
 Lynn Willcockson (2017) lynnli2698@aol.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund 303-906-8044 kahaglund1@aol.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS

January	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
February		
March	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May		
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August		
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November		
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Field Trip Count Reports

Mary Driscoll wddriscoll@gmail.com

Field Trips

Karen von Saltza kvonsaltza@yahoo.com

Grants

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Web Administration (<http://dfobirds.org>)

Mary Geder admin@dfobirds.org
 Kay Niyo admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

DMNS Liaison

Jeff Stephenson jstephenson@dmns.org

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler mkeithler@yahoo.com
 Backup contact, Dave Hill d_d_hill@comcast.net

CFO Website

<http://cobirds.org>

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list cobirds@googlegroups.com

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

Nameplate photo of Lark Bunting pair by Lee Farrell

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles. © 2015 Denver Field Ornithologists. All Rights Reserved.

Welcome, new members: Helen Berkman, Denver; Laurie Gibb, Denver; Jim Hansmann, Denver; Patty Jaacks, Centennial; Weiss and Melissa Kallick, Denver; Laura Osborn, Boulder; Pablo Quezada, Denver; Mark Wallace, Morrison

Upcoming Speakers

**Nate Warning and
Lauryn Benedict** Aug. 24
“Rocks in Rock Wren Nests”

Ted Floyd Sept. 28
“Birding in the Posthuman Age”

Arvind Panjabi Oct. 26
TBD

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 20 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 35 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Featured This Month

Time for Logo Update?

Early Minutes Now Online

Grants Benefit Young Birds



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/SEPTEMBER 2015/VOL 51 NO 9

[HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG](http://dfobirds.org)

Field Trips

Cherry Creek State Park (Arapahoe County)

**Saturday, September 5
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Mary Keithler (Email:
mkeithler@yahoo.com Phone:
303-771-1421)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the west
marina parking lot. State Parks
pass or day pass required.

Look for gulls, waterfowl, and a
variety of birds. Habitats include
deep water, marshlands, mixed
grasses, and cottonwoods.

We will carpool to the vari-
ous stops and walk 1-2 miles.
Bring binoculars, water, snacks,
sunscreen, and bug repellent.
Scopes are useful.

**Please register online or
contact the leader.**

Jackson Lake Reservoir Monday, September 7 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Chuck Hundertmark (Email:
chundertmark8@gmail.com
Phone: 303-604-0531)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at Colorado
Parks and Wildlife, 6060 N
Broadway.

Exit I-25 at 58th Ave, go west 2
blocks to Broadway, then north
2 blocks to parking lot on right
to carpool. State Parks pass or
day pass required.

This is an all-day trip so bring
lunch, plenty of water, bug spray,
and sunscreen.

We'll look for shorebirds and
other migrants. Scopes will be
helpful and remember your mud

Continued on page 2

Hidden in plain sight: Rock Wren nests

Nat Warning and Lauryn Benedict, University of Northern Colorado, will present a DFO program on August 24, 2015 on the little known lives of Rock Wrens.

Nat holds a B.S. and M.S. and assisted with Whooping Crane reintroductions at the International Crane Foundation. He continues to study Rock Wren nesting behavior, and currently works for the City of Longmont Natural Resources Department.

Lauryn is an assistant professor of biology at University of Northern Colorado. She obtained a B.S. and Ph.D. and studies bird behavior, avian ecology, and birdsong.

Rock Wrens (*Salpinctes obsoletus*) are capable architects of their environment, augmenting their cavity nests with large collections of stones. The unique nesting structures of Rock Wrens were first documented in the early 19th century by the pioneering ornithologist Florence Bailey (Bailey 1904).

Since then Rock Wren nests have been touted as a great mystery and have remained largely unstudied.

The stones act as a foundation beneath the nest, and often extend beyond the nest cavity entrance creating a "pavement" or "patio" structure (Smith 1904, Bent 1948). With some nests containing hundreds of stones, this behavior

Continued on page 5



Rock Wren nest in Larimer County, CO containing more than 250 stones. Nat Warning

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

boots as we may hike through some mud.

We'll carpool in three vehicles. Plan to stay for the entire trip.

Register online or contact leader to register.

September 11–13

Fall Bird Counts

Refer to the schedule **on page 4 in this newsletter.**

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)

Sunday, Sept. 13

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881); Cynthia Madsen (Email: cmadsen08@gmail.com Phone: 303-770-6534 Alt. Phone: 303-909-6930)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP.

From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir. State Parks pass or day pass required.

This is a half day of walking that passes through most of the important habitats found in the park over a distance of about 3 miles.

Bring water and snacks; lunch is optional. Beginning birders are welcome.

Register online or contact leader to register.

Mt Lindo Cemetery and Turkey Creek Park

Sunday, September 20

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen Drozda (Email: drozforte@AOL.com Phone: 303-388-0891)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: Meet at the parking lot just east of the Morrison

Continued on next page

Who's on Board?



From the President

Joe Roller

This is the first in a series of interviews with the hard-working directors on our DFO board.

Kristine Haglund was elected to the board at our April 2015 meeting. A highly educated, widely published librarian and archivist, her passion lies in professionally archiving historic material.

She became DFO's official historian in 2014 after a distinguished career as archivist and chair of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science Alfred M. Bailey Library and Archives.

Kris is also enthusiastic about ballroom dancing. Who knew?

Joe: Kris, you bring a fresh perspective to the DFO. How do you see the club's role in the birding community?

Kris: DFO members are avid "birders," and they are also committed "learners." The club's strength lies in its educational mission, with its frequent field trips, the informative *Lark Bunting*, and the top-notch evening presentations.

Joe: Please tell us the history of the DFO's historians.

Kris: From the birth of the club in 1935, Miss Sue Frances Dougan served as historian until 1944, when the position was eliminated. Thankfully charter club member Ruth Wheeler kept a scrapbook and meeting minutes and publications were saved.

Decades passed until Warren Finch became DFO historian in the 1980s until his death in 2014, keeping historical items in file cabinets and cardboard boxes in his garage before eventually transferring them to the DMNS archives.

Thanks to the dedication of Miss Dougan, Ruth Wheeler, and Warren Finch, the raw material has been preserved and is now being archived, cataloged, and digitized for ease of access. I began working on the DFO material in my professional position on the DMNS staff.

Joe: How did you come to be the DMNS archivist?

Kris: I was working as the sole staff member of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Museum when in about 1972 I began to volunteer for Arminta Neal at what was then the Denver Museum of Natural History.

Ms. Neal hired me in 1975 as her assistant, and in 1977 the museum's director, Charles Crockett, initiated an archives program to organize, catalog, and preserve Dr. Alfred M. Bailey's voluminous papers, photographs, and movie films created during his long career.

I created the museum's archives program to ensure the proper management of the museum's records and historical documentation.

Continued on page 6

Field trip waitlist information enhanced

by Karen von Saltza

We have just added a new enhancement to the DFO website for participants wishing to sign up for field trips. You are now able to see if your name has been waitlisted or not.

Many participants have complained that they have no way of knowing if they clear a waitlist. This often happens the night before a trip. Now participants can go to two places on the website to verify their status.

When you register for a field trip ("[Field Trips, Upcoming Trips/Register](#)"), there is a blue link you can click on that is titled "[Carpooling? Who Has Signed up?](#)" Once you have signed up for the trip you can click on this link and if your name is in **RED** it means that you are on the waitlist. If someone who is confirmed on this trip should cancel and you are number one on the waitlist, your name will move up and be black.

It is a good idea to monitor this part of the registration process as waitlists do clear and you don't want to miss the opportunity to join the group if possible.



Persons on the waiting list will be shown in red.	
Bruce Neuman	Karen von Saltza
Mark Wallace	Bea Weaver
Lynne Miller	Jan O'Brien
Barbara Hoover	Mary Cay Burger
Christie Owens	Ann Johnson
Jim Petri	Kayleen Niyo
Beverley Postmus	

The second place to look if you are trying to see if you have cleared a waitlist is on the dropdown list of field trips. At the upper left is a box titled "[Show/Edit My Upcoming Trips](#)." This will show all the trips you are registered for.

If your name appears in **RED** on any of these field trips, you are on the waitlist for that particular trip. Once again, this is a good place to monitor your status. Many field trip lists change at the last moment and you might find yourself confirmed whereas the day before you were waitlisted.

If you cannot attend a trip, please **DELETE** your name on the list by clicking the "**Delete**" button to the right.



Location	Date	Contact Name	Contact Phone	Miles	
Chase Trip	8/29/2015	John Niyo	608-902-9008	7	Edit Delete

You are on the waiting list.

Records per page: 50 Records: 1 of 1 Pages: 1 2 3

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

Conoco clock tower. This is on the NW corner of the intersection of C-470 and Morrison Road.

We will travel Hwy 285 south to the South Turkey Creek/Tiny Town turnoff.

We will then drive approximately 2 miles on a well maintained gravel road up the mountain to the Mt Lindo Cemetery.

Habitat is an interesting mix of Gambel oak, Douglas-fir, aspen, ponderosa pine. We will look for late migrants, sapsuckers, flycatchers, Brown Creepers.

For the second stop we will continue on past Tiny Town for 0.8 miles to Turkey Creek Park.

This riparian area may have Wilson's Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, late flycatchers. We will eat our lunch here weather permitting.

Bring water, snacks, lunch, and carpool fare (\$2-3 per person).

Register online or contact leader to register.

**Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR
Saturday, September 26
8:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

Candice Johnson (Email: candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org Phone: 303-329-8131)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: Meet at the Arsenal Visitors Center, 6550 Gateway Rd, Commerce City, CO.

General directions: On I-70 east, take exit 278, turn left onto Quebec St, turn right onto E 60th Ave, turn left onto Trenton St, continue onto Gateway Rd to Visitor Center.

In this prairie and lake environment we hope to see late shorebird migrants and many waterfowl and raptors. Be prepared

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

to carpool because parking is limited at the lakes.

Bison and deer are likely to be seen. We will take short walks on level trails only. Good for beginning birders.

Bathrooms at Visitor's Center open at 9 AM. There is one picnic table for anyone wishing to have lunch. Coleader is Tim Johnson.

Register online or contact leader to register.

South Valley Park - Jefferson Co. OS

Sunday, September 27

8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Jill Boice (Email: jill@booksandcats.net Phone: 303-863-7580);

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: 90 S. Valley Road, Littleton, CO. From the Denver Metro area, travel south on C-470 and exit westbound on Ken Caryl Avenue.

Go about 0.3 mile west, take a left turn onto South Valley Road to the park's north parking area.

South Valley is a small park just southwest of the Metro area. It is nestled between red stone hogback formations and will be very attractive in fall colors.

We will start at the north parking area, which has restrooms.

We will look for birds on the small reservoir there. Then we will make a modest 2-mile loop through mixed habitats, returning on a hiker-only trail.

We hope to find some foothills species such as Western Scrub-Jays, Mountain Bluebirds, nut-hatches, and possible Bushtits.

This will be a good trip for all levels of birders.

Register online or contact leader to register.

—Scheduled by Mary Geder

Fall Bird Count 2015

The Audubon Society of Greater Denver has conducted fall bird counts for over 30 years. There are no fees, but some sites require a state parks pass or pre-registration. Bring binoculars, scopes for the reservoir counts, field guide, and lunch. Everyone is welcome to help—more eyes see more birds.

Friday, September 11

Cherry Creek Reservoir

Leader: Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 (mcburger@juno.com)

Meet at 7 a.m. at Marina, inside west gate near Cherry Creek High School. State Parks pass required.

Barr Lake periphery

Leader: Dick Anderson 303-757-4582 (rholfesanderson@earthlink.net)

RSVP. Meet at 7 a.m. at Barr Lake Entrance Station. This trip, mostly driving, does not involve much walking and will be good for people with limited mobility or stamina.

Saturday, September 12

Waterton Downstream

Leaders: Urling & Hugh Kingery 303-814-2723 (ouzel@aol.com)

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Audubon Nature Center (left turn immediately after turning onto Waterton/Roxborough road and before the DOW parking lot for Waterton Canyon).

It is a 4–5 mile hike. Wear long pants (not shorts) due to bare-leg-unfriendly plants such as poison ivy, thistles, and knapweed.

Barr Lake State Park

Leader: Amy Morton 720-570-6146 (amylmorton@yahoo.com)

Call leader if you plan to go. Meet at 6:30 a.m. at RMBO, 14500 Lark Bunting Lane. Meet at parking lot at the south end of Lark Bunting Lane. From the Bromley Lane Exit 22 off I-76, drive east on E 152nd Ave across the railroad tracks and take an immediate right onto Lark Bunting Lane. State Parks pass or day pass required.

Walk ~5 miles on all sides of the lake including the banding station.

Castlewood Canyon State Park

Leader: Tom Halverstadt 303-618-6730 (thavs1@comcast.net)

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at Homestead Parking Lot. From CO 86, 0.5 miles west of Franktown, turn south on Castlewood Canyon Road, go two miles to old entrance. State Parks pass required.

Continued on page 6

**Thank you for your contribution to the
Research, Education, and Conservation Grant
Fund: Maggie Brahm, Brenda Sabo**

ROCK WRENS, *continued* from page 1

ior represents a considerable energy investment, but the benefits provided to the wrens are unclear.

The heaviest stones in some nests are reported to be well over six grams, representing 1/3 the weight of an average Rock Wren (Merola 1995).

Our work studying Rock Wrens has been focused on public lands in Larimer County, CO.

We quantified Rock Wren stone use and measured how stones affect nest cavity properties in 46 nests.

We tested the three leading hypotheses about the benefits of stone structures:

(1) stones ameliorate temperature fluctuations and improve nest thermoregulation,

(2) stones improve nest microclimates by keeping them dry, and

(3) stones have the potential to reduce nest predation by alerting incubating females when predators approach.

Our data indicate that Rock Wrens adjust the amount of stones used in nests according to cavity characteristics in order to obtain multiple benefits and that the use of stones is, in fact, an adaptive behavior.

Which theory won out? Which sex are the primary stone carriers, and how are they carried?

Could this behavior be considered tool use?

Come on August 24 to find out!

The DFO meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium.

Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting.



Rock Wren carrying stone for use in a nest. Nat Warning



Rock Wren with insect, Lory State Park, Larimer Co., CO, 3 July 2013. Dave Leatherman

Citations:

Bailey, F. M. 1904. *The Condor* 6:68–70.

Bent, A. C. 1948. *U.S. Nat Mus Bull* 195, Smithsonian Institution,

Washington D.C.

Merola, M. 1995. *The Condor* 97:585–587.

Smith, P. W., Jr. 1904. *The Condor* 6:109–110.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued from page 2

Museum archives programs were pretty rare at that time, and the Denver museum's program was among the earliest.

Only the Smithsonian Institution and a few other large museums had official programs to manage, collect, and preserve their own records.

Joe: I understand that after long service to the museum, you are now its archivist emerita. I like that word, "emerita."

Kris: Although I retired from the museum's staff at the end of August 2013, I still volunteer there, and the archives program continues to thrive.

The DFO records are housed there and can be readily accessed by researchers. In addition, older issues of *The Lark Bunting* are now on the DFO website, thanks to a grant from DFO and the great work of DFO member Carol Cochran.

A particular source of pride is the new archives work and preservation area in the recently completed Avenir Collections Center.

For many years the archives collections resided on shelving behind the museum's dioramas.

Joe: So behind the diorama of the

herd of musk ox, there'd be a box for every ox?

Kris: There would be lots of boxes, yes. But today those files reside on beautiful shelving in a large space with temperature and humidity controls and with a large work area for volunteers, archivists, and researchers.

Joe: What projects are you working on as a volunteer at the museum now?

Kris: I am preparing Dr. Bailey's autobiography for publication. The body of the work was completed shortly before his death in his own scrawled handwriting and was partially transcribed by his secretary Maggie Denny decades ago.

It has recently been resurrected and, when published, it will serve as a finding aid for Bailey's field notes, correspondence, literary manuscripts, photographs, and films.

It will provide a window into the history of natural history museums and ornithology from the 1890s to the 1970s as told through the life of one museum man.

Dr. Bailey was an effective administrator and incidentally had a reputation as a penny-pincher. One had to knock on his office door to



Kris Haglund

seek permission to buy an air-mail stamp!

Joe: What is your goal as the DFO's historian?

Kris: I am already working to make the DFO's history more accessible. I believe that an organization's future needs to be firmly grounded in its past, and that the more we know about what went before, the better will be our decisions for the future.

Joe: Thank you, Kris, and welcome to the board!

FALL BIRD COUNT, continued from page 4

Lower Bear Creek & Marston Reservoir

Leader: Rick Creswell 720-963-9163 (rickcreswell@yahoo.com)

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Walmart at the SE quadrant of C-470 & Bowles (south side, south of the Garden Center).

We will bird Bear Creek Lake Park and the Bear Creek Greenbelt in the morning and Marston Reservoir in the afternoon.

Chatfield State Park

Leader: Joey Kellner 303-978-1748 (vireo1@comcast.net)

Meet at 6:30 a.m. at swim beach

(near the main entrance off of Wadsworth). State Parks pass required.

Sunday, September 13

Rocky Mountain Arsenal

Leader: Urling Kingery 303-641-8823 (ouzels@aol.com)

Call leader to sign up; spaces available.

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Joe Roller 303-204-0828 jroller9@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016) mammershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2018) willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016) wddriscoll@gmail.com
Kristine Haglund (2018) kahaglund1@aol.com
Candice Johnson (2018) candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2017) tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Chris Rurik (2018) chrisrurik@gmail.com
Ira Sanders (2017) zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Karen von Saltza (2017) kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Lynn Willcockson (2017) lynnli2698@aol.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund 303-906-8044 kahaglund1@aol.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS

January	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
February	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
March	Bill Wuerthele	303-333-2519
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Field Trips

Karen von Saltza kvonsaltza@yahoo.com

Grants

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

Nominating

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Web Administration (<http://dfobirds.org>)

Mary Geder admin@dfobirds.org
Kay Niyo admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

DMNS Liaison

Jeff Stephenson jstephenson@dmns.org

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill d_d_hill@comcast.net

CFO Website

<http://cobirds.org>

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list cobirds@googlegroups.com

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

Nameplate photo of Lark Bunting pair by Lee Farrell

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles. © 2015 Denver Field Ornithologists. All Rights Reserved.

Welcome, new members: Maggie Brahm, Denver; Andy Dolan, Denver; Linda Gates, Lakewood; Slade Moore, Fort Collins; Brenda Sabo, Denver; Alice Turak, Denver

Upcoming Speakers

**Nat Warning and
Lauryn Benedict** Aug. 24
“Rocks in Rock Wren Nests”

Ted Floyd Sept. 28
“Birding in the Posthuman Age”

Arvind Panjabi Oct. 26
TBD

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | | |
|---|----|-------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ | 20 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ | 35 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ | 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ | _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Featured This Month

New Series: Who's on Board?

Trip Waitlist Enhanced

Fall Bird Count



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/OCTOBER 2015/VOL 51 NO 10

[HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG](http://DFOBIRDS.ORG)

Field Trips

Barr Lake State Park Saturday, October 3 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Gregg Goodrich (Email:
GreggGoodrich@gmail.com
Phone: 303-655-9135)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the Barr Lake SP Visitor Center. State Parks pass or day pass required.

From Denver, take east I-76 to Bromley Lane, exit 22. Go east on Bromley Lane to Piccadilly Rd, then turn south for ~2 miles to park entrance and follow road to Visitor Center.

Bring snacks, lunch (optional), and plenty of water. Beginners are welcome. **Register online or contact leader.**

Belmar Historic Park Sunday, October 4 7:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Ira Sanders & Tammy Sanders
(Email: zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Phone: 303-278-7172)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 14

Directions: Meet in the parking lot near the lake. Belmar Historic Park is at 800 S Wadsworth Blvd in Lakewood.

From Alameda and Wadsworth go south on Wadsworth, turn west at the light on West Ohio Ave. Drive a short two blocks to the parking lot.

This trip will also include Wheat Ridge Greenbelt following Belmar.

This will be a 3/4 day trip depending on the birds. Join leaders at Belmar to begin look-

Continued on page 2

Can birders escape the internet? No.

Have you heard? Humanity is in the throes of the biggest breakthrough since literacy. We're talking about the internet, of course, and what it's doing to our brains, our bodies, and the very nature of humanity. And it's happening so fast.

The invention and spread of literacy required millennia, but the internet has transformed our species in just a couple decades. The really big changes have played out in just the past 10–15 years—and there's more coming.

Is it possible to escape the internet? Via birding perhaps? Our September speaker, Ted Floyd, says it is not. For better or for worse, birding and field ornithology have enlisted in the Digital Revolution.

This hobby and lifestyle of ours is completely different from where we were at the beginning of the 21st century. More change is coming, and there's no turning back.

How to make sense of it all? Well, Ted will be bringing his e-crystal ball and digital time machine to our September 28 meeting, and providing us with an exclusive view of "Birding in the Post-Human Age: Reflections on Who We Are, Who We Once Were, and Who We're Going to Become."

Ted Floyd is editor of ABA's *Birding* magazine and active in the Colorado and Wyoming birding communities. He lives in Lafayette, eastern Boulder County, with son Andrew (8), daughter Hannah (almost 11), and wife Kei (eternally 29 years old). Ted speaks at birding events everywhere, but his favorite venue is "back home" with DFO.

The DFO meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting.



Ted Floyd,
Editor of
ABA's *Birding*
magazine.
Tim Lenz

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

ing for early waterfowl migrants as well as any resident birds and any other possible late migrants.

Beginning at Belmar Historic Park, we will then drive to Wheat Ridge to cover the water at the west end near Youngfield and Tabor Lake.

Bring lunch, water, binoculars, and a scope if you have one. This is easy walking on flat surfaces and is an excellent trip for beginning birders.

Register online or contact leader.

**Eldorado Mountain Open Space
Thursday, October 8
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Paula Hansley (Email: plhansley@gmail.com
Phone: 720-890-2628)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the NE corner of the intersection of Highway 93 and 170. Carpool 3 miles west to the trailhead where parking is limited.

Join leader to explore a beautiful area and look for possible late migrants. We will be walking both the Fowler Trail and the Goshawk Ridge Trail.

We will search for resident species such as woodpeckers, including lingering Lewis's Woodpeckers, nuthatches, and finches. Of course we will also keep our eyes open for a goshawk or other accipiter or raptor.

Bring water, snacks as needed, and binoculars. Lunch is optional. **Register online or contact leader.**

Continued on next page

Your busy DFO Board!



From the President

Joe Roller

boon to our Nominating Committee, which is now working year-round.

Committee members Bill Wuerthele and Candice Johnson welcome your ideas regarding nominees.

Communication

Chris Rurik set up a Facebook page so that members have a place to share photos, stories, identification requests, and trip reports. Try it!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/dfobirds/>

Congratulations to the Logo Committee for hatching our Lark Bunting logo, "Singing on the Wing." The new bird in town has been favorably received.

When presented to the birders at the August DFO meeting it drew an ovation. You'll find Colorado artist Radeaux's energetic male *Calamospiza melanocorys* skylarking practically everywhere you look—on <http://dfobirds.org/>, our Facebook page, and *The Lark Bunting*.

Soon we'll print business cards. What's next—DFO logo baseball caps, t-shirts, coffee mugs? We'll be able to show the pride we feel in Denver Field Ornithologists!

The Lark Bunting is published online and in print for all DFO members and the public. Editor Kay Niyo and Designer Debbie Marshall produce a colorful and informative newsletter every month.

And the now 1-year-old interactive DFO website designed by Ann Johnson continues to attract and please the public.

Will Burt regularly informs the DFO and website members of important announcements by email.

Vice President Bob Shade always amazes us by arranging engaging presentations for our evening programs. We are especially looking forward to hearing from the new DMNS Curator of Ornithology, Dr. Garth Spellman, on February 22, 2016.

Continued on page 3

Stewardship

Based on an analysis of the DFO budget, the board voted in August to modestly increase annual dues, which have been stuck at \$20 a year for the past 17 years. This increase applies to members receiving *The Lark Bunting* by email.

Two factors led to the Board's unanimous decision to set annual dues at \$25: (1) creeping inflation in every area and (2) greatly increased services to members.

DFO operating funds are held in a federally insured checking account, and Mary Geder's treasurer's reports are available online to members.

Grants

Candice Johnson manages DFO's totally revamped Grants Program, funded by our generous donors. We support youth scholarships to birding summer camps and fund field ornithology research.

Membership

Mary Cay Burger keeps busy managing our growing membership and our outreach to prospective members.

DFO Field Trips

Thanks to a lot of hard work by Karen von Saltza and the Field Trip Committee, DFO now has fifty volunteer field trip leaders fully trained to lead birding trips around the state.

DFO provides two to four birding trips each week, which is unrivaled in the nation. This carries on the 80-year tradition of providing many birding experiences to its membership. The public is encouraged to easily register online for each trip.

A Field Trip Leader Manual is the basis for leader training and standards. Next, the DFO will release a guide for participants to help each birder make the most of their adventures with DFO into the wilds.

DFO prides itself on conducting field trips that are free and open to the public and that tradition will continue.

Yes, a very busy board and many other important contributors are hard at work for the DFO membership and the birding public.

**Thank you for your contribution to the
Research, Education, and Conservation Grant
Fund: Joe Roller**

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

Majestic View Nature Center Saturday, October 10 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Jackie King (Email: jackie.king@ccd.edu
Phone: 720-381-3314)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Majestic View Nature Center, 7030 Garrison St, Arvada, CO 80004. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot.

From the East: Wadsworth Blvd to 68th Ave, west to Garrison St, north to the Nature Center parking lot.

From the West: Oberon Rd to 66th Ave, east to Garrison St, north to the Nature Center parking lot.

Join the leader in front of the nature center of this newer area. We may see resident birds, late migrants, and hopefully some surprises.

Good trip for novice birders, those with limited mobility, and anyone wanting to explore this area.

Lunch is optional. Bring water and snacks. Walk is roughly two miles on paved or graveled paths.

Register online or contact leader.

Chatfield State Park, The Big Sit Sunday, October 11 6:45 AM - 6:45 PM

Joey Kellner (Email: vireo1@comcast.net Phone: 303-978-1748)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: From the Wadsworth Blvd entrance, go past the pay station to the stop sign, turn right at this 'T' and continue around the reservoir.

Cross the S Platte River and continue up the hill. Turn left at the sign for the park headquarters and make a hard left into

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

the large parking lot labeled Heron Overlook.

At the far right corner, a trail leads down to the Heron Overlook. State Parks pass or day pass required.

The Big Sit, an international birding event, has exacting, loose, and frivolous standards.

Big Sitters count all the birds they see or hear from within a circle with a 17-foot diameter.

Count sitters may send out scouts and beaters to find other birds and identify them as long as a Sitter sees them from within the circle.

All around the world, on this date, people will Big Sit! Come and join Joey Kellner and other recruits any time from (before) dawn to (after) dusk.

Stay for an hour, a morning, or all day. Drop by whenever you like.

Joey maintains an hourly chart of the birds that Sitters see from the circle.

In the past few years he has tallied 55-65 species. Bring chairs, breakfast, lunch, dinner, picnics, coffee, etc.

Bring binoculars, scopes, and field guides.

**Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)
Sunday, October 11
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP. From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

Continued on next page

Visit to Scotland sister city highlights trip

by Sue Clasen

This summer I spent 46 days in Iceland, Scotland, Wales, and England birding, doing a bit of genealogy, and playing tourist.

An early highlight of the trip was the three days I spent in the Dundee, Scotland area birding with members of the Angus and Dundee Bird Club (ADBC) <http://www.angusbirding.com/html/adbc.html> who had visited Denver in 2004 http://dfobirds.org/LarkBunting/Archives/2010-2019/2014/11_Nov_2014_LB.pdf.

They included then President, and recently retired from the position, Bob McCurley, Dorothy Fyffe, and her good friend Doris Malcolm.

The first day we drove up into the glen (valley) of Glen Esk and visited a wonderful folk museum, which had useful genealogy information and collectibles from earlier times.

We then drove up toward Loch (lake) Lee where my 4th-2nd paternal great grandparents lived and were baptized at the parish church. Birding along the road was great and included sightings of Common Snipe, Meadow Pipit, Spotted Flycatcher, Sand and House Martins, Wheatear, and Siskin, all lifers for me. The glen itself was beautiful.

Continued on page 8



Juvenile puffin on May Island, 5 July 2015. Sue Clasen

Fall 2015 Speaker Series

- All talks at 7 p.m., Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd.
- Presented in partnership with Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- Tickets: <https://secure1.dmns.org/category/9-after-hours.aspx> or 303-370-6000; \$12 Museum or BCOR member, \$15 nonmember

October 7 – Welcome to Subirdia

Renowned ornithologist and urban ecologist John Marzluff will present a surprising discovery: the suburbs of many large cities support a great variety of birds and other creatures that are adapting to the conditions of our increasingly developed world.

In his fascinating book *Welcome to Subirdia*, Marzluff reveals how practicing careful stewardship can foster a new relationship between humans and other animals—one that honors and enhances our mutual destiny.

Location: Phipps IMAX Theater

October 21 – Awe-Inspiring Avian Conservation

As head of the Smithsonian Migratory Center, Peter Marra examines how climate, habitat, food, pathogens, and other direct sources of mortality affect both individual migratory and resident birds.

He is ambitiously pursuing innovative technological solutions for tracking animals throughout their lifetimes. From citizen science projects to satellite transmitters, he and his research teams are using methods that take advantage of our connected world to better understand and protect birds and other animals.

Location: Phipps IMAX Theater

October 28 – The Beauty of the Sagebrush Sea

Stretching 250,000 square miles across North America, the sagebrush steppe is home to a surprising diversity of life, including songbirds, mule deer, and the powerful golden eagle.

Marc Dantzker and the rest of the production team from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology experienced some unusual adventures while capturing this natural wonder for the Lab's new film *The Sagebrush Sea*.

They endured long sits in camera blinds, subzero nights in a travel trailer, deeply stuck trucks, and doubly blown tires.

Dantzker himself contracted and recovered from Rocky Mountain spotted fever, then crunched his spine requiring fusion surgery the day after the film was finished.

It was worth it though because the result is a unique examination of life in sagebrush country through the eyes of the charismatic Greater Sage-Grouse.

The evening includes a screening of the film and Dantzker sharing the team's adventures and the importance of protecting this uniquely American ecosystem.

This program is also presented in partnership with the Audubon Society Greater Denver and Audubon Rockies.

Location: Phipps Theater

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

This is a half day of walking that passes through most of the important habitats found in the park over a distance of about 3.5 miles.

Trails could be slippery or muddy, so dress accordingly. Bring water and snacks; lunch is optional. Beginning birders are welcome.

Register online or contact leader.

Chico Basin Ranch Saturday, October 17 6:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Mark Amershek (Email: mamershek@msn.com Phone: 303-329-8646)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate
Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: To carpool, meet at the King Soopers parking lot at 100 Founders Parkway (just east of I-25) in Castle Rock, CO.

One-day birding pass for Chico Basin Ranch is \$15 or \$10/individual when with a DFO group.

Bruce Neuman will be co-leader on this trip. This is a fee area. We need volunteers with high clearance vehicles to drive on ranch roads. Let leader know if you can drive.

Chico Basin Ranch is a working cattle ranch located in El Paso/Pueblo counties, south-east of Colorado Springs.

The driving distance from Castle Rock will be approximately 100 miles, a little over two hours.

The ranch will be birded by following the ranch roads in vehicles with stops to bird on level open areas such as ponds, wetlands, and grasslands.

This will be an all-day trip so please bring water and lunch.

Scopes will be handy but not necessary.

Continued on page 6

Field Trips

Continued from page 5

A two-way radio per car would be helpful.

We will bird until 4 p.m. and should be back at Castle Rock around 6 p.m. **Register online or contact leader.**

Roxborough State Park Sunday, October 18 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Doris Cruze (Email: cruzeduo@aol.com Phone: 303-798-8072)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Take S Wadsworth Blvd past Chatfield SP to Waterton Rd on left.

Take Waterton Rd 1.6 miles east to North Rampart Range Road. Turn right and go south 2.3 miles to Roxborough Park Rd.

Turn left (east) onto Roxborough Park Rd and then turn immediately right (south) on Roxborough Rd and follow signs to the Park (2.2 miles).

State Parks pass or day pass required.

October is a great time for fall color at Roxborough and there could still be migrants as well as year-round birds such as towhees, chickadees, nuthatches, scrub-jays, Blue Jays, and some of those little brown sparrows that can drive birders crazy.

Lunch optional. Bring water and snacks. **Register online or contact leader.**

Cherry Creek State Park (Arapahoe County) Saturday, October 24 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Mary Cay Burger (Email: mcburger3@juno.com Phone: 303-771-3431)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Enter the east side of Cherry Creek State Park via Lehigh off of Parker Road.

Continued on next page

Last Month's Program: Rock Wrens

Tim Johnson

The DFO's first meeting of the 2015–2016 season set a high bar for both science and presentation quality. We heard Dr. Lauryn Benedict and Nat Warning give lectures entitled "Hidden in Plain Sight: Secret Lives of Rock Wrens."

Lauryn is assistant professor of biology at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) with a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley and B.A. from Cornell. Nat Warning, a veteran of the International Crane Foundation, currently works with the Natural Resources Department in Longmont and has an M.S. from UNC.

Lauryn briefly introduced Rock Wrens and research methodology (color banding), which focuses on the ability to identify individual birds.

Rock Wrens in their research area (mainly Larimer County) are migratory. They arrive in April and establish territories, nest in May, and raise two broods in July and August. The demarcation line between resident and migratory wrens is somewhere in Colorado—exactly where is a current research topic.

Lauryn specializes in birdsong and she described parallels between development of human speech and birdsong, presently the best model for human speech (cf. *Science* 349:688–689), for a recent brief review.

Song development requires early input from adult birds and appears to involve the winnowing out of sounds from an unstable repertoire through practice and learning.

Lauryn pointed out, using spectrograms, that regional dialects, and even variations in individual song elements akin to word pronunciation variants, are routine.

To illustrate the complexity of birdsong, she played a recording of two Plain-tailed Wrens, coordinating a fast-paced duet that sounded like a single bird.

To suggest the enormous potential for information content in birdsong, she played several sentences spoken in a whistled language used in Turkey for long-distance communication (cf. <http://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-whistled-language-of-northern-turkey>), which could be mistaken (by humans, anyway) for birdsong.

With this provocative preface, Lauryn went on to Rock Wrens. She presented spectrograms from one bird indicating five different song types sung in one minute. Her research indicates that individual Rock Wrens may have a repertoire of 32–120 song types.

She left us with questions: Why up to 120 song types? Is variation individual, local, or regional? Do young wrens learn songs on their wintering grounds or on migration with other broods?

Nat began with concepts of tool use in nonhuman animals, relevant to Rock Wrens since they modify their environment extensively with stones.

The current academic definition of tool objects (not attached to tool user's body, not attached to the environment, beneficial to the user) leads to contradictions and controversy, complicated by an entrenched notion that tool use implies cognitive ability.

Continued on page 7

ROCK WRENS, *continued from page 6*

Tool use among nonhuman animals is rare. Is this because it's difficult to evolve cognitively, or because it's useless in most environments? Nat argued that tool use has no cognitive implications. Some insects are tool-users by the definition. Even in the most widely studied animal (chimpanzee), tool use plays a minor role in the ecology.

In Nat's words (from <http://www.denveraudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/13-Rock-Wren.pdf> [contains Nat's data]): "Rock wren nests are typically located on the ground, in natural cavities beneath boulders and overhanging rocks, in cliff cavities, or in earthen banks.

"Rock wren nest construction is unique in that small, flat stones are used to line the base of the nesting cavity. Stone foundations often extend beyond the nest cavity creating a nest 'pavement' and are often mixed with sticks and vegetation to form a stable matrix.

"Stones are reported to vary in length from 12 mm to 50 mm and in weight from 0.7 g to 6.8 g, and are placed as a foundation before the construction of the cup nest....Nest cups are typically set back from the cavity entrance."

Females do the work of stone-carrying. Over 1 kg of stones can be used for a single nest. Nat's research indicates that thickness is likely the guiding parameter for stone choice and that an important function is to occlude nest cavities to a suitable size.

Further functions of the pavement may be to stabilize soil and provide drainage. Paved nests are drier and provide a noise alarm for predators.

Both presentations verified the old saw that good science leaves more questions than answers. I hope to hear future updates, please!



Lark Bunting, Pawnee National Grassland, 13 July 2015. *Ira Sanders*

Field Trips

Continued from page 6

Go just past the entrance station and turn left (south) at the first intersection.

The road bends and heads west with the reservoir ahead of you. Go about 1/4 mile, just past the next intersection. The parking for Pelican Point will be on your left. State Parks pass or day pass required.

Look for gulls, waterfowl, and a variety of birds. Habitats include deep water, marshlands, mixed grasses, and cottonwoods.

We will carpool to the various stops and walk 1-2 miles.

Bring binoculars, water, snacks, sunscreen, and bug repellent. Scopes are useful.

Register online or contact the leader.

South Platte River Trail at E 88th Ave and I-76

Sunday, October 25

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Paul Slingsby (Email: paslingsby@comcast.net
Phone: 303-422-3728)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the parking area at 88th Ave and South Platte River Trail.

From I-76 take E 88th Ave exit, go west on 88th for 1.6 miles, then turn south at Colorado Blvd.

Turn left again into the parking lot for the South Platte River Greenway Trailhead.

We will see plenty of ducks, a few raptors, and some hearty winter residents.

Hike along paved trail and occasionally in the adjacent mud for up to three miles. **Register online or contact leader.**

Continued on page 8

Field Trips

Continued from page 7

Parker Regional Park

Saturday, October 31

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Patti Galli & Karen von Saltza
(Email: cookiegirl56@Live.com
Phone: 303-995-4192)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: From Main St intersection in Parker, go south on Parker Rd (CO 83) for 1.2 miles.

Turn right on Indianpipe Ln and right into McCabe Meadows parking lot in Salisbury Park (Parker Regional Park). We bird along the Cherry Creek Trail.

Join the leader for a nice morning walk to see what fall birds are around. Possible late migrants and likely resident birds.

Bring water, snacks, and binoculars. **Register online or contact leader.**

—Scheduled by Chris Owens

SISTER CITY, continued from page 4

The next day we took a boat from near the famed St. Andrews to May Island <http://www.isleofmayferry.com/>.

There were nesting Arctic Terns more than ready to attack, Atlantic Puffin, Razorbills, Bridled and Common Guillemots, Shags, Eiders, Kittiwakes, and gulls galore.

Northern Gannets flew by regularly on their way to Bass Rock.

We were treated to a rarely seen nocturnal juvenile Puffin who came out of his burrow during the day.

On the last day, we visited several habitats.

We first hiked to the Montreathmont Forest Hide, which really hid us from all birds, large and small, including the Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Jay, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Coal Tit, and Great Tit, among others.

On the way to the Montrose Basin Local Nature Reserve <http://www.montrosebasin.org.uk/birds.htm> with its water birds, we surprisingly came across an Iceland Gull.

Oystercatchers, one of my favorites, begin to appear and were a constant on the rest of my time in Scotland!

Lastly Lunan Bay with its sandy beaches was on the itinerary <http://www.visitscotland.com/en-us/info/towns-villages/lunan-bay-p315721>.

As a final treat we returned to Dorothy's home for a lovely supper and a walk through her amazing and huge garden with lots of nooks and crannies to sit in, watch birds and butterflies, and in general enjoy nature.

This visit was early in my trip and set a high standard for the balance of my time in the UK.



May Island birding with Angus and Dundee Bird Club members and young birders learning to band (ring) young birds, 5 July 2015. Photo by ADBC member

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President		
Joe Roller	303-204-0828	jroller9@gmail.com
Vice President		
Bob Shade	303-975-2476	wrshade3@gmail.com
Treasurer		
Mary Geder	303-986-6127	mfg5000@live.com
Secretary		
Kay Niyo	303-679-6646	kay@kayniyo.com
Membership Chair		
Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431	mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016)	mamershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2018)	willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016)	wddriscoll@gmail.com
Kristine Haglund (2018)	kahaglund1@aol.com
Candice Johnson (2018)	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2017)	tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Chris Rurik (2018)	chrisrurik@gmail.com
Ira Sanders (2017)	zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Karen von Saltza (2017)	kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Lynn Willcockson (2017)	lynnliz2698@aol.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund	303-906-8044	kahaglund1@aol.com
------------------	--------------	--------------------

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS

January	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
February	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
March	Bill Wuerthele	303-333-2519
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Field Trips	
Karen von Saltza	kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Grants	
Candice Johnson	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Nominating	
Candice Johnson	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director	
Will Burt	willburt43@gmail.com
Web Administration (http://dfobirds.org)	
Mary Geder	admin@dfobirds.org
Kay Niyo	admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo	kay@kayniyo.com
----------	-----------------

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing	marshallpublish@gmail.com
--------------------------------------	---------------------------

OTHER CONTACTS

DMNS Liaison	
Jeff Stephenson	jstephenson@dmns.org
Tuesday Birders	
Mary Keithler	mkeithler@yahoo.com
Backup contact, Dave Hill	d_d_hill@comcast.net
CFO Website	http://cobirds.org
COBirds	
Internet bird-sighting discussion list	cobirds@googlegroups.com

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

DFO logo by Radeaux

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles. © 2015 Denver Field Ornithologists. All Rights Reserved.

Welcome, new members: Anne Frazier, Golden; Sondra Bland and Bob Spencer, Erie; Kate Totten, Broomfield

Upcoming Speakers

Arvind Panjabi Oct. 26
“Conservation of North
America’s Grassland Birds
in the Chihuahuan Desert”

Kris Haglund Nov. 23
“Won’t You Come
Home, Bill Bailey”

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 25 |
| ☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>) | \$ 35 |
| ☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21) | \$ 5 |
| ☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation | \$ _____ |

Total \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

Featured This Month

Board is Busy!

Sister City Visit

Meeting Sets High Bar



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/NOVEMBER 2015/VOL 51 NO 11

[HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG](http://dfobirds.org)

Field Trips

Walden Ponds Wildlife Habitat/ Sawhill (Boulder County) Sunday, November 1 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Amy Morton (Email: razgorpy@gmail.com Phone: 720-570-6146)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: From northbound U.S. 36, take Foothill Parkway exit. Go north 2 miles to Arapahoe Ave, then east to 75th St.

Go north on 75th St past Valmont Rd and railroad tracks. Turn left at Wildlife Habitat sign.

Follow road west and south to Cottonwood Marsh parking lot.

Daylight Savings Time Ends! We will look for waders, divers, and winter residents. **Register online or contact leader.**

Scoter Trip Saturday, November 7 5:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Joey Kellner (Email: vireo1@comcast.net Phone: 303-978-1748)

Trail Difficulty: Strenuous

Directions: Meet on the side of Deer Creek Canyon Rd just west of Wadsworth.

Join in an **all-day** search for migrant grebes, loons, and scoters. Bring lunch and come prepared for all kinds of weather and wide variety of driving conditions November can bring.

A State Parks pass is required for drivers of carpooling vehicles.

Register online or contact leader.

Continued on page 2

Bird Conservancy tries to unravel mystery

Arvind Panjabi, International Director for Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (formerly known as RMBO), will present the DFO program on Chihuahuan Desert grassland birds research on October 26.

It's no secret that grassland bird populations have been declining more steeply than other birds for many decades. This is generally attributed to habitat loss and degradation in the Great Plains, but the role of over-winter survival in these declines has received less attention.

Fully 90% of migratory grassland bird species breeding in western North America concentrate in the Chihuahuan Desert during winter, yet little is known about their ecology and survival during this time.

Since 2005, Bird Conservancy has been working to unravel the mystery of where grassland birds go in winter and what they need to survive. More recently they have begun on-the-ground conservation efforts in northern Mexico.

From 2006–2013, we conducted the first ever regional survey of grassland birds in the Chihuahuan Desert, focusing on Grassland Priority Conservation Areas (GPCAs) in six Mexican and three U.S. states, to identify spatial and temporal patterns of wintering distribution, abundance, and habitat use.

In 2009 we began investigating over-winter survival using radio-telemetry. We have also measured habitat loss through remote sensing.

Winter bird communities in Chihuahuan Desert grasslands vary across time

Continued on page 4



Baird's Sparrow, Chihuahuan grasslands, 2014. José Hugo Martínez

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)

Sunday, November 8

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvon-saltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP.

From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

This is a half day (about 3 mile) walk through most of the important habitats found in the park. Trails can be slick or muddy. Beginning birders are welcome.

Cosponsored with Denver Audubon. **Register online or contact leader.**

South Platte Park and Carson Nature Center

Saturday, November 14

7:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Bob Shade (Email: wrshade3@gmail.com Phone: 303-975-2476)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 20

Directions: Meet at the parking area off C-470. Take C-470 west from Santa Fe to South Platte Canyon Road, turn sharp right onto Viable Road leading to parking area.

Park at the lot at the end of the road near the river.

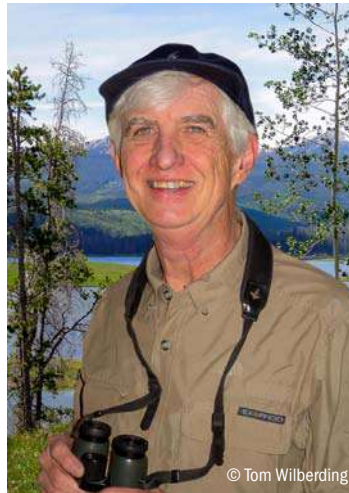
The river holds a variety of migrating waterfowl: Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, and Canada Goose.

We may find some shorebirds in the lakes south of Mineral and Eared Grebes have been seen there.

Raptors and Great Horned Owls are regulars. Bring water, binoculars, and a scope if you have one.

Continued on next page

Birding etiquette: A fable for our times



From the President

Joe Roller

Birding etiquette is so important. We could talk about breaches of etiquette like charging ahead of the group or talking nonstop, but let's concentrate on Rule Number One: "Notify the leader when leaving the group."

When birders follow that rule, the leader does not suffer needless anxiety when someone seems to have disappeared.

But, as this fable illustrates, breaking that rule can yield positive outcomes.

Punkin Center Field Ornithologists (PCFO) field trips were great, and the Spring Count at Wrenfield was the highlight of the birding year.

Twenty eager souls met at dawn, and the air crackled with anticipation as Jimmy, the

keen and cheerful leader, led them along the trail.

And what a morning it was! Foul, upslope weather had produced a fall-out. Warblers, vireos, collared-doves! Oh, my! Around each bend of the trail lurked delightful birds.

As the morning wore on, Jimmy suddenly noticed that Jack and Jill were absent. They seemed to have disappeared, without farewells or good-byes. What to do? Call 911? Send for bloodhounds?

Jack had left the group without telling anyone. He had gone up the hill, down the hill, heading home to mow the lawn, but en route had tripped and fallen, nearly breaking his crown, and had tumbled into quicksand. Quickly sucked under, he left behind only a few bubbles and his hat (his favorite hat) on the mucky surface.

Jill, who was pale and fetching, had also turned back, muttering to herself, "Gotta go," without telling the leader. She had suddenly realized that the bank was closing.

Jack and Jill, breachers of etiquette! Sacré bleu!

Filled with dread, the group back-tracked, searching futilely. Then Jimmy stopped and called out, "Look over there!"

"Jimmy, do you see Jack and Jill?" asked the hopeful birders.

"No, better than that! Swallow-tailed Kite! Mega-rarity! Perched on that snag over there, the one we passed by an hour ago, in the biggest cottonwood tree, above the horizon; that snag sticking out at a 45-degree angle!"

"No, not that snag! The one at 2:20. Can you see it? The snag with no leaves on it. To the right of the biggest tree, about 100 yards away. Farther to the right. Can everybody see it?"

"If you can't see it, move over to the left. Look higher. Not that high. See that tree? Look with your eyes! Yes, the cottonwood tree with cottonwood leaves on it, except for the snag."

Binoculars were hoisted, and there perched the elegant raptor, far from its

Continued on page 5

Last Month's Program: *Post-Human Age*

Tim Johnson

DFO's September 28th meeting featured Ted Floyd, who titled his presentation "Birding in the Post-Human Age: Reflections on who we are, who we once were, and who we're going to become."

Ted Floyd, editor of ABA's *Birding* magazine has written four books, including the *ABA Field Guide to Birds of Colorado* (2014). In addition he has authored more than 150 popular articles, technical papers, and book chapters on birds and other aspects of natural history. He recently specialized in nocturnal flight calls.

His talk to the DFO, however, had nothing to do directly with natural history but instead might best be described as a panegyric on using recent technology to study natural history and communicate it to others.

He used as a springboard a cover of the October 1981 issue of *Birding*, which depicted cartoon birders from 1900, 1981, and 2015 (outfitted with gun; spotting scope with pencil and paper; and undetermined but fanciful gear, respectively).

Contrasting what he characterized as an almost static, complacent check-point in science at the end of the nineteenth century with the frenetic pace that occurs now, Ted ruminated on technological changes that have penetrated the birding world. They include progress from hand-written notebooks to computerized lists to eBird; and from gun and paint to published photographs to worldwide, instantaneous documentation via the Cloud.

Ted said at one point that the crucial thing listeners should take away from his talk is that technological change between 1981 and 2015 has been much greater than imagined in 1981 for natural historians including birders—and that the same will probably hold true in the future.

My take on his thoughts was that two main trends have dominated such change: (1) the use of versatile, relatively cheap, highly portable devices to record, analyze, and communicate data by interaction with the Cloud, replacing single-purpose machines or greatly amplifying their capabilities. And (2) the enormous increase in citizen participation and consequently data volume that this has allowed.

He noted as examples the site www.xeno-canto.org to which anyone can upload birdsongs, and currently has accessible 273,207 recordings from 9,415 species—and of course, www.ebird.org. Ted is involved in increasing the functionality of eBird by integrating the sharing of other media (sound, video, spectrograms) on the site.

Ted is optimistic that this vast capability for citizen participation, combined with social media, can counteract a trend toward alienation from nature that has often been lamented in environmental circles, and blamed on these same technologies.

He referred to the book by Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving our children from nature deficit disorder*. He thinks that the book has been widely misinterpreted as portraying nature and technology to be antithetical.

On the contrary, Ted feels that groups like Arthropods Colorado (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/381476328587993/>) can enhance anyone's enjoyment of and interest in nature by integrating it with a social experience via

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

Lunch optional. **Register online or contact leader.**

Prospect Park (Wheat Ridge Greenbelt) Sunday, November 15 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Kevin Corwin (Email: kevygud-guy@aol.com Phone: 720-482-8454)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: From I-70 exit 267, take Kipling south about 3/4 mile and turn right (west) on 44th Avenue. Go one mile west.

Look for the entrance to Prospect Park on your left (south).

Meet just inside the park in the lot right next to Prospect Lake.

This is a half-day trip around the lakes. Bring snacks and water. Keep an eye on the weather forecast and dress appropriately.

Hopefully it won't be too cold so there will be open water for some nice duck viewing. **Register online or contact leader.**

Annual Barrow's Goldeneye Count to Silverthorne Wednesday, November 18 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Paul Slingsby (Email: paslingsby@comcast.net Phone: 303-422-3728)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Meet at the RTD Park-n-Ride located at Union Blvd and W 2nd Place.

From US 6 go south to the second stoplight. Turn left and proceed toward the end of W 2nd Place. Look for the group at the southeast corner of the Park-n-Ride lot.

We will count Barrow's Goldeneyes and other birds at the Silverthorne water treatment plant and then drive to Hot Sulfur Springs (rosy-finches), Lake

Continued on page 4

Field Trips

Continued from page 3

Granby, Shadow Mountain Lake, and Grand Lake.

Spotting scopes and 2-way radios will be useful. Dress for cold, windy weather. Insulated, windproof leg coverings and warm boots are recommended.

Bring water and snacks, we'll find a warm place to buy lunch.

Plan to be back at meeting place by dark. **Register online or contact leader.**

Chatfield State Park Saturday, November 21 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Edmund J Holub (Email: edmund.holub@gmail.com
Phone: 303-979-2194)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Directions: Meet at swim beach by entering west entrance of park off S Wadsworth, 1.5 miles south of C-470. State Parks pass or day pass required.

Lunch is optional as the trip will be half day but bring snacks and water. **Register online or contact leader.**

Rueter-Hess Reservoir (Douglas Co.)

**Sunday, November 22
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Mary Cay Burger (Email: mc-burger3@juno.com Phone: 303-771-3431)

Trail Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum Participants: 15

Directions: Meet at Barr CCC Park, 10951 S Twenty Mile Rd, Parker, CO 80134, located on the SW corner of Main St and 20 Mile Rd for birding there and later at the Rueter-Hess Reservoir, which is open to the public only with entry permission.

Tim Ryan of Parker Water Dept. will lead and explain the water projects.

Continued on next page

BIRD CONSERVANCY MYSTERY, continued from page 1

and space, but are generally characterized by dominance of a few species. However, species abundance and composition can be highly variable between years.

Several of the most steeply declining species (Baird's Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, and Chestnut-collared Longspur) require grasslands with low amounts of shrub cover (<5%), a condition that is increasingly uncommon due to ongoing shrub encroachment.

Survival of Vesper Sparrows in Chihuahua varied over two consecutive years, but on average was low, suggesting only 25% of birds may survive the winter.

Survival in Baird's Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow has also been highly variable. Three years of research suggests that winter survival exerts a strong influence on population trends and winter distribution patterns.

Predation by avian predators is the primary cause of mortality in native grasslands, and grass and shrub height have a strong, but opposite, influence on survival. While taller grass affords better protection from predators, taller shrubs invite more predators, particularly shrikes.

Unfortunately, trends in Chihuahuan grassland condition have been the opposite: more and taller shrubs and less and shorter grass.

Rapidly expanding croplands have destroyed more than 70,000 ha of grasslands in central Chihuahua since 2006, threatening to eliminate low-slope grasslands within a few decades. The implications of this accelerating habitat loss exacerbate the ongoing and widespread effects of poor grazing management and climate change on grassland condition.

Increasing the carrying capacity of existing grasslands through habitat restoration and range management could help mitigate some of the effects of habitat loss while also improving the economic viability of desert grasslands for livestock production. High concentration, dwindling habitat, and low survival suggest a strong limiting effect of the wintering period on grassland bird populations may exist.

The conservation of migratory grassland bird populations will require more international cooperation and diverse partnerships to increase available resources and target limiting factors that will yield the greatest impact for these species throughout their lifecycle.

The DFO meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING, continued from page 3

a smartphone. He recounted a recent "Insect Flash Mob" outing recruited through the Internet as a (perhaps extreme) example.

Well, I hope Ted is right in thinking, as he said, that we are engaging nature more and better than ever before through technology. I took home one other lesson: Ted showed a picture (doubtless from a smartphone) of a Great Horned Owl outlined against a colorful sky. He commented that this was the pure essence of birding, which hasn't changed and probably never will. Amen.

FROM THE PRESIDENT, continued from page 2

southern haunts. Quickly Jimmy had it in the scope. Look at that split tail, at that white head!

Jimmy realized that if they had not gone back for Jack and Jill, they might never have seen the awesome kite. A breach of etiquette had led to finding a great bird.

Everyone saw the bird well.

Everyone that is, except Jack and Jill. Where could they be?

Then Mickey remembered that Jill did her banking on Saturdays. Perhaps Jack also had an important errand to run. Who knew? Somewhat relieved, Jimmy digiscoped the kite, and PCFO marched on. It was the best Wrenfield Spring Count ever.

Later, Mickey called Jill. All was well. But Jack's phone rang and rang. Jimmy feared the worst and called 911. Paramedics rushed to the scene and discovered boot prints leading into the quicksand. Poor Jack. It was so sad, so very sad, especially since Jack needed Swallow-tailed Kite for his Cowabunga County list. But it was not totally sad, as the rescuers did find Jack's hat.

An etiquette rule had been broken, but let's concentrate on these positive outcomes:

- a) The Colorado Bird Records Committee accepted the report of the Swallow-tailed Kite.
 - b) Jill made it to the bank in time.
 - 3) Jimmy gave up leading birding trips, took up mollusks, and is now number three on the top one hundred list of the Colorado Field Molluskers.
 - 4) Jack's widow achieved closure when Jack's hat (his favorite hat) was returned to her.
- So don't feel bad when you break the rules—good things can happen.

Grants Program relies on your support

by Candice Johnson

As you renew your DFO membership for 2016, please consider making a generous donation to the DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Grants Fund.

We depend solely on donations to operate the grants program.

In 2015 DFO awarded five grants for research on McCown's Longspur, the Flammulated Owl, and Clark's Nutcracker, as well as funds to buy binoculars for youth and sponsor scholarships to birding camps.

Your generous donation along with your membership renewal will allow DFO to continue supporting avian research, conservation, and education.

**Thank you for your contribution to the
Research, Education, and Conservation Grant
Fund: Susan Walters**

Field Trips

Continued from page 4

We will first bird Barr CCC Park, which is along Cherry Creek and then drive to reservoir for grassland species and waterfowl on the lake.

Bring binoculars, snacks, water, sunscreen, and a scope if you have one. **Register online or contact leader.**

Fountain Creek Regional Park (El Paso County)

Saturday, November 28

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Wendy Wibbens & Sue Summers (Email: wibbwj@aol.com
Phone: 303-330-1175)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 10

Directions: Carpool at 7:30 a.m. from Castle Rock King Soopers parking lot (NW corner of lot), 100 Founders Parkway (I-25 Exit 184).

OR meet at 8:30 a.m. at Fountain Creek Nature Center, 320 Pepper Grass Lane, Fountain CO 80817.

Take Exit 132A from I-25, go east on Hwy 16 for 0.5 mile and south on Hwy 87 for 0.5 mile to Pepper Grass Lane.

Meet at Castle Rock King Soopers at 7:30 a.m. to carpool **OR** at the Fountain Creek Nature Center at 8:30 a.m.

This is a half-day trip to search for ducks, raptors, and a variety of songbirds that can be unique to this park. Winter Wrens and uncommon warblers have been seen here during this season.

We enjoy interactive and participatory trips for birders of all levels. Wear layers and strong boots. Bring water and snacks. We should end about noon and return to Castle Rock about 1 p.m. **Register online or contact leader.**

—Scheduled by Mary Cay Burger



Gray-crowned (and Gray-Cheeked or Hepburn's) Rosy-Finches, Golden, CO, 4 January 2015. *Ira Sanders*



Tammy and Ira Sanders with CFO Award, 2015. *Casey Vickers for Ira Sanders*

Ira and Tammy Sanders honored for hosting rosy-finch viewers

by *Joe Roller*

At the August 24, 2015 DFO

meeting, active DFO members and trip leaders Ira and Tammy Sand-

ers were presented with an award for hosting birders to see all three rosy-finch species at their feeders in Golden, Colorado.

The prestigious award, the Colorado Field Ornithologists Homeowners Appreciation Award, is given to homeowners and landowners who go out of their way to make birders feel welcome, usually to view special avian visitors.

The Sanders diligently kept their feeders full, as Brown-capped, Gray-crowned, and sought-after Black Rosy-Finches feasted throughout the winter of 2014–2015.

Ira reported the ebb and flow of the flock to COBirds almost daily. Scores of local and out-of-state birders admired the pink birds, which are among the iconic birds of Colorado winters.

Ira and Tammy were cheerful hosts, although their patience was tested on that cold winter day when their best wooden feeder was chewed up by a hungry elk.

Many thanks to Ira and Tammy Sanders from the DFO and its members.

Lark Bunting watercolor to be auctioned!

by *Joe Roller*

The original, framed watercolor of the new DFO logo, “Lark Bunting Singing on the Wing,” will be up for auction on November 23.

Artist Mark Yaeger (aka Radeaux) of Pueblo painted this striking 17” x 21” watercolor as the new DFO

logo, and the club bought the one-of-a-kind original at a price far below its market value of \$1,200.

This work of art will be auctioned to the highest bidder at our November 23 evening DFO meeting, and interest will be high. One need not be present to bid, as a proxy can bid for you. As the years and decades go by, this Lark Bunting watercolor will only gain in value.

Funds from the sale will be added to our DFO Grants program, which supports field research and kids going to birding camps. What an opportunity for you to show your DFO pride and support the Grants Fund at the same time.

A photo of the artwork was shown at the September 28 DFO program, and the framed watercolor itself will be on display at our October 26 meeting.

For any questions, contact our auctioneer, Chuck Hundertmark by email at chundertmark8@gmail.com.



“Lark Bunting Singing on the Wing.”
Radeaux

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Joe Roller 303-204-0828 jroller9@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016)	mamershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2018)	willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016)	wddriscoll@gmail.com
Kristine Haglund (2018)	kahaglund1@aol.com
Candice Johnson (2018)	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2017)	tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Chris Rurik (2018)	chrisrurik@gmail.com
Ira Sanders (2017)	zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Karen von Saltza (2017)	kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Lynn Willcockson (2017)	lynnliz2698@aol.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund 303-906-8044 kahaglund1@aol.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS

January	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
February	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
March	Bill Wuerthele	303-333-2519
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Field Trips

Karen von Saltza kvonsaltza@yahoo.com

Grants

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

Nominating

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Web Administration (<http://dfobirds.org>)

Mary Geder admin@dfobirds.org

Kay Niyo admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

LINKS AND CONTACTS

DFO Facebook

Photos and discussion facebook.com/groups/dfobirds

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list cobirds@googlegroups.com

DMNS Liaison

Jeff Stephenson jstephenson@dmns.org

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler mkeithler@yahoo.com

Backup contact, Dave Hill d_d_hill@comcast.net

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

DFO logo by Radeaux

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles. © 2015 Denver Field Ornithologists. All Rights Reserved.

Welcome, new members: Carl Bendorf, Solon, IA; Betsy Collins, Aurora; Glenn Gade, Denver; Tim Mitzen, Thornton; Shelley and Florian Walchak, Denver

Upcoming Speakers

Arvind Panjabi Oct. 26
“Conservation of North
America’s Grassland Birds
in the Chihuahuan Desert”

**Kris Haglund and
Liz Clancy** Nov. 23
“Won’t You Come
Home, Bill Bailey”

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 25
☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 35
☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21)	\$ 5
☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

Watercolor to be Auctioned

Host Honored

Birding Etiquette

Featured This Month

Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting



The Lark Bunting

DENVER FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS/DECEMBER 2015/VOL 51 NO 12

[HTTP://DFOBIRDS.ORG](http://dfobirds.org)

Field Trips

Barr Lake State Park Sunday, December 6 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Chuck Hundertmark (Email: chundertmark8@gmail.com
Phone: 303-604-0531)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at parking lot at the south end of Lark Bunting Lane (note: this is not the usual Barr Lake SP meeting place).

From the Bromley Lane exit off I-76, drive east on E 152nd Ave across the railroad tracks and take an immediate right onto Lark Bunting Lane. State Parks pass or day pass required.

Bring snacks and water.
Scopes optional.

We'll look for winter raptors and early winter passerines. Beginners are welcome. **Register online or contact the leader.**

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield Saturday, December 12 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Lynn Willcockson (Email: Lynnliz2698@aol.com Phone: 303-757-7000)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 15

Directions: On Deer Creek Rd west of S Wadsworth Blvd, south of C-470. Meet at the Entrance Gate.

Note what we have always called the Arboretum is now officially called the Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield.

Admission is free if you are a member; show proof of membership. Otherwise, it is \$5 per car.

Continued on page 2

Bill Bailey will come 'home' Nov. 23

Kris Haglund and Liz Clancy, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, will present the DFO program "Won't you come home, Bill Bailey" on November 23.

If you've been a member of the Denver Field Ornithologists, been a birder, or just been in Colorado for some time, you may know the name Alfred M. "Bill" Bailey. If not, the name may be new to you, but all current DFO members should become familiar with him, since he was a key DFO member from the beginning.

It all began on January 27, 1935, at the first meeting of the students of Robert J. Niedrach, the purpose of which was to form an organization of people interested in birds. The program for the evening consisted of Bob Niedrach showing three reels of motion pictures of Louisiana birds taken by his close friend and colleague A.M. Bailey.

The following year, Bailey became the second director of the Denver Museum of Natural History (now known as the Denver Museum of Nature & Science).

As the museum's leader and an ornithologist, Bailey strongly supported the Colorado Bird Club, as DFO was originally called. He presented many of the

Continued on page 7



Atlantic Puffin with hake for chick in burrow (see page 4). Derrick Z. Jackson

Field Trips

Continued from page 1

(Good encouragement to car pool—click the little box on your registration screen to see who else has registered.)

Enjoy a leisurely walk to see what birds are out making a living in the unpredictable December environment. Lunch optional.

Register online or contact leader.

**Cherry Creek SP Wetlands Loop (Arapahoe County)
Sunday, December 13
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Directions: Meet at the Prairie Loop lot in Cherry Creek SP.

From either park entrance, follow Lake View Rd to the Prairie Loop that is located at the south rim of the reservoir. State Parks pass or day pass required.

This is a half-day of walking that passes through most of the important habitats found in the park, over a distance of about three miles.

Trails can be slippery so dress accordingly. Bring water and snacks; lunch optional. Beginning birders are welcome. **Register online or contact leader.**

**Denver Christmas Bird Count details on page 8
Saturday, December 19**

**Cherry Creek State Park (Arapahoe County)
Saturday, December 26
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Karen von Saltza (Email: kvonsaltza@yahoo.com Phone: 303-941-4881)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Enter at the EAST

Continued on next page

Last Month's Program: *Chihuahuan Birds*

Tim Johnson

The October DFO meeting's audience was privileged to hear Arvind Panjabi, International Program Director of the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, present "Conservation of North America's Grassland Birds in the Chihuahuan Desert."

Arvind, with a B.S. (1993) and M.S. (1999) in Wildlife Biology from the University of Vermont and Louisiana State University, respectively, has been associated with the Bird Conservancy for 15 years.

His data-packed talk had roughly three parts: an overall biogeography of grassland birds and threats to them; species-specific results from the Bird Conservancy's research in the Chihuahuan Desert; and progress and prospects for urgent conservation needs of grassland-dependent birds.

He began with a trailer from a New Hampshire PBS special, "Plight of the Grassland Birds" (coming to Colorado in 2016 but purchasable now), which summarized the conservation crisis. Birds depending on grasslands, comprising 5% of North American avifauna in 15 families, are disappearing quickly.

Since 1966, most species have suffered losses of over 75%; our own Lark Bunting has suffered an 86% population loss over this period. Two-thirds of these 59 species are recognized as threatened, and half depend on the Chihuahuan Desert for part of their seasonal cycle—often the greatest part.

The northwestern Great Plains of the United States hosts the highest concentration of breeding species, and the Chihuahuan Desert—1/5 the area of the Great Plains—supports the highest concentration of wintering migrants (maps can be found in the reference below).

A reasonable hypothesis might be that survival on wintering grounds is a significant factor in the decline of these birds, but what specific factors are involved? Habitat loss? Ranching practices? Predation? All of the above?

Arvind took the audience on both Google Map and ground tours of grasslands in the Bird Conservancy's study area. Several take-home messages emerged.

Conversion to center-pivot and other irrigated agriculture, some of it illegal, has eliminated a great deal of habitat with the remaining being largely restricted to narrow, intermountain valleys. And considerable variation exists between grassland habitats in the study area, with species-specific ecological consequences.

Arvind then described research in Mexico sponsored by the Bird Conservancy. Much more can be found at <http://www.birdconservancy.org/what-we-do/international/chihuahuan-grasslands/>. Highlights and new data include a pilot survival study of Vesper Sparrows involving daily tracking of birds outfitted with transmitters; only 25% survived winter conditions. Survival was higher when grasses were up to 30 cm higher.

A follow-up (2 to 3-yr) study of Baird's and Grasshopper Sparrows at three different sites suggested extremely variable site-dependent survival (0–80% for Baird's Sparrows), highlighting the complicated nature of the survival puzzle.

Realizing that grassland structure is crucial, the Bird Conservancy has also found species-specific correlations of bird density with amount of grass cover

Continued on page 3

Lark Bunting watercolor to be auctioned!



"Lark Bunting Singing on the Wing." Radeaux

by Joe Roller

The original, framed watercolor of the new DFO logo, "Lark Bunting Singing on the Wing," will be up for auction on November 23.

Artist Mark Yaeger (aka Radeaux) of Pueblo painted this striking 17" x 21" watercolor as the new DFO logo, and the club bought the one-of-a-kind original at a price far below its market value of \$1,200.

This work of art will be auctioned to the highest bidder at our November 23 evening DFO meeting, and interest will be high. One need not be present to bid, as a proxy can bid for you. As the years and

decades go by, this Lark Bunting watercolor will only gain in value.

Funds from the sale will be added to our DFO Grants program, which supports field research and kids going to birding camps. What an opportunity for you to show your DFO pride and support the Grants Fund at the same time.

The framed watercolor was on display at our October 26 meeting and is shown below. For any questions, contact our auctioneer, Chuck Hundertmark by email at chundertmark8@gmail.com.

LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM, *continued from page 2*

and grass height, which have management implications for ranchers.

They have also studied food preferences of Baird's and Grasshopper Sparrows, finding that while native grasses (blue grama, sideoats grama) were preferred, some nonnatives were used (rose natalgrass) while others were spurned—a result with clear implications for range management.

Looking at predation, they found that Loggerhead Shrikes were the dominant predators. This is probably correlated with grazing-induced encroachment of shrubs, encouraging shrike nesting and opportunities for prey hanging.

The Bird Conservancy also studied bird behavior by tracking individual Grasshopper Sparrows. They discovered birds that were homebodies, and also restless birds that roamed over large areas.

The goal of this work is conservation, and to that end the Bird Conservancy is involved in a Desert Private Lands Program whose goal is 500,000 acres of well-managed private lands committed to conservation by 2020.

Ranchers in the program agree to grazing regimens involving rests, rotations, and some shrub removal; "simple" improvements like nest platforms and stock tank escape ladders; and monitoring.

On a larger scale, Bird Conservancy is trying to raise the priority level of grasslands within Mexican agencies, particularly regarding illegal land-use changes. We wish them luck.

Field Trips

Continued from page 2

entrance to the Park from South Parker Road. NOTE: this is NOT the regular meeting site for most previous trips.

Go past the entrance kiosk and take the first left turn.

Continue on this road, past the east boat ramp and turn left to the "East Shades, Picnic Shelters," as shown on the park map, located on the east shore of the lake.

State Parks pass or day pass required.

Cherry Creek Reservoir may be iced over for this brisk end-of-December walk. Raptors usually are abundant; a great chance to study eagle behavior.

Trails may be slippery, so wear sturdy footwear. Bring snacks and water. Scopes and lunch optional. We may carpool to several points in the park. **Register online or contact leader.**

Barr Lake State Park Sunday, December 27 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Gregg Goodrich (Email: GreggGoodrich@gmail.com
Phone: 303-655-9135)

Trail Difficulty: Easy

Maximum Participants: 12

Directions: Meet at the Barr Lake SP Visitor Center. State Parks pass or day pass required.

From Denver, take east I-76 to Bromley Lane, exit 22. Go east on Bromley Lane to Piccadilly Rd, then turn south for ~2 miles to park entrance and follow road to Visitor Center.

Bring snacks, lunch, and plenty of water. Trip may be 3/4 day depending on birds and weather.

Trip can easily be modified to be accessible for a person with a disability. Beginners are welcome. **Register online or contact leader.**

—Scheduled by Jill Boice

Special DFO program shows what it took to bring Puffins back

by Kay Niyo and Chuck Hundertmark

Some 50 DFO members and guests turned out at the Belmar Library on November 2, 2015 to hear Derrick Z. Jackson introduce *Project Puffin: The Improbable Quest to Bring a Beloved Seabird Back to Egg Rock*.

Jackson is coauthor and principal photographer of the book published this year by Yale University Press (Kress and Jackson 2015).

DFO sponsored the talk and book reading as an added benefit for members.

As Jackson recounted to the audience, the book unfolds the history of Stephen W. Kress's project to reintroduce the Atlantic Puffin to islands off the coast of Maine.

Started in the early 1970s, the project became the world's first suc-

cessful rescue of any native bird.

Techniques pioneered by Ph.D. ornithologist Kress have since been used saving several species in other parts of the world.

Derrick is an associate editor and editorial board member of the *The Boston Globe*, an accomplished photographer, and a Pulitzer Prize finalist for commentary.

From the 1800s through the early twentieth century, the Atlantic Puffins nesting on Maine islands had been killed by humans for food and feathers until there were only about four still nesting on one island.

The National Audubon Society hired Steve Kress, Audubon's Hog Island camp instructor, in 1973 to reestablish puffin nesting on several Maine islands.

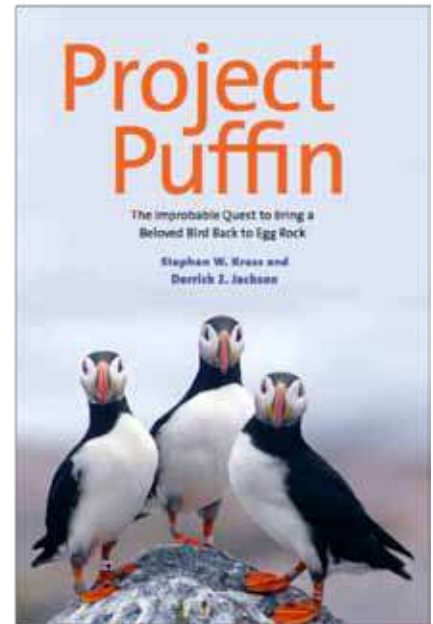
They began by transplanting six puffin chicks from Canada in 1973.

They continued transplanting up to 100 chicks per year into burrows on the islands.

Because puffin fledglings spend several years at sea feeding before they reach breeding age, it wasn't until 1977 that the first transplanted puffin came back to Eastern Egg Rock Island.

The first successful breeding occurred in 1981.

Derrick became involved with the puffin



Kress, S.W. and D.Z. Jackson. 2015. *Project Puffin: The Improbable Quest to Bring a Beloved Seabird Back to Egg Rock*. Yale University Press, New Haven and London. 376 pp.

project in 1986. Today there are 150 breeding pair on Egg Rock and 1,100 pair on four islands.

More than 500 interns have assisted in the effort over the years, which also required controlling greatly increased numbers of Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls that fly over from the mainland and prey on the puffins.

Even otter and mink can swim the six miles to Egg Rock and devour many birds/chicks in one night.

Atlantic Puffins are not an endangered species in the North Atlantic, but climate change is threatening their existence on the islands off the continental United States.

Derrick said three years ago the Maine area experienced a temperature increase of 3 to 4°F.

The warmer waters caused the normal small, slim food species

Continued on page 5



Derrick Z. Jackson holding an Atlantic Puffin chick. Courtesy of Derrick Z. Jackson

(herring, white hake) of the puffin chicks to move farther north, and some parents were bringing them butterfish, a round-bodied fish that the chicks can't swallow. Therefore, some chicks starved.

Many other local species such as lobster and cod are also gradually being displaced farther north by warming waters.

Derrick emphasized it is important for young people to be in touch with the natural world.

Copies of *Project Puffin* and a selection of Derrick's photographs were available for sale with a portion of proceeds supporting youth outreach efforts of the National Audubon Society and DFO's grants program.

Additional information about Project Puffin can be found at <http://projectpuffin.audubon.org/>.

Consider purchasing *Project Puffin* or "Adopt-a-Puffin" as a holiday gift for a young friend or grandchild <http://projectpuffin.audubon.org/adopt-puffin-0>.

Kay Niyo adopted Atlantic Puffin Yellow 33 in 2007 and received a photo and amazing "life history" of Y33 nesting successfully nearly every year on Egg Rock.

Y33 was 30 years old in 2007.

Derrick said she last nested there in 2011 and hasn't returned since that year. So presumably, she was lost at sea at age 34.

Call for 2016 grant applications

by Candice Johnson

The DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Fund is now accepting applications for grants to encourage the study, appreciation, and preservation of birds and their habitats. Preference will be given to projects in the Denver metropolitan area, the Front Range, the state of Colorado, and the USA, in that order.

Awards typically range from \$500 to \$2000. Recent past grants have included grants to fund student scholarships to birding camps, support research on Clark's Nutcrackers and Flammulated Owls, and to restore prairie habitat for birds at Dodd Reservoir in Boulder County.

Proposals should include a description of goals, a methodology, a complete budget including other funding sources, and an indication of any completed preliminary work.

It is expected that successful grantees will provide a report on their project to be published in *The Lark Bunting* newsletter and on the DFO website, or lead a field trip to the research site, or make a presentation at the monthly meeting.

An application form and a history of past grants awarded are available on the website at <http://dfobirds.org/Grants/>.

Deadline for applications is February 1, 2016. Notification of awards will be made soon after this date.

It's time to renew your DFO membership for 2016!

Renew online at <http://dfobirds.org/DFO/Membership.aspx> with your credit card, or by filling out and mailing the application on the back page of *The Lark Bunting*, or at the November DFO meeting.

Thank you for your contribution to the Research, Education, and Conservation Grant Fund: Laurie Duke, Thomas "Tim" and Candice Johnson, Beth Madden and Kathanne Lynch, Tracy Pheneger, Robert Righter, Karen Bickett and Sandy Selzer, Jeff Stephenson

Youthful birder easily identifies a ‘White-headed Roller’

by Candice and Tim Johnson

Who's a crack birder who can identify a White-headed Roller without breaking a sweat, has over 500 species on his list, and whose development as a naturalist is being helped by the DFO?

Meet Pablo Quezada, who was interviewed by Tyler Edmondson (Communications Director of the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies) to begin the October DFO meeting.

Pablo, 14, said he was introduced to birding through a Bird Count for Kids program several years ago sponsored by the Bird Conservancy.

Mentored in part by his grandmother, who gave him field guides and computer-aided song identification, he also attended the Bird Con-

servancy's camp in Rocky Mountain National Park.

There he did intensive study of several birds and their habitats, including Wilson's Snipe and Yellow Warbler.

He plans to attend the camp again if possible, and also plans a birding trip to Brazil in 2016 with his grandmother.

Last summer Pablo attended the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies birding camp, which received scholarship support from a grant from our DFO Research, Education, and Conservation Fund. He is exactly the type of student we hope will continue his interest in ornithology, either professionally or as an avocation.

Please remember him when you decide about donating to our DFO



Pablo Quezada and Tyler Edmondson.
Lynn Willcockson

Grants fund. This can be done online through PayPal on our website or a check to DFO.



Oct. 11, 2015 Big Sit at Chatfield State Park, Denver. *Joey Kellner*

club's programs, especially the early ones when the group was still in its infancy.

Even when Bailey was unable to be at a meeting, his photographs and films often constituted the program. Bailey provided meeting space in the Museum, served as a birding resource for the club members, and strongly supported the club's activities. In appreciation, in 1943, the club presented him with a lifetime membership.

Bailey's career began in 1912–1913 as a member of the U.S. Biological Survey expedition to Laysan Island to exterminate rabbits that were threatening the island's rare birds by competing for their food.

After graduation from the University of Iowa in 1916, he became the curator of birds and mammals at the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans. From there he served as the first representative for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Biological Survey) in Alaska between 1919 and 1921.

He was then hired by Director Jesse Figgins of the Denver museum to head an expedition to Arctic Alaska to collect specimens for new exhibits that would inhabit the museum's



Alfred M. Bailey, Louisiana, ca. 1917. *Courtesy of A.M. Bailey Archives, DMNS*

new 1918 building expansion. In 1926, he was lured away to become a member of the Field Museum of Natural History's expedition to Abyssinia (present-day Ethiopia).

Bailey has been described as one of the early popularizers of ornithology because of his numerous articles in popular publications and his lectures, which he delivered across the United States. Bailey's film lecture programs were made possible by his extensive fieldwork within Colorado, the United States, and other countries.

Bailey once said that his wife, with two small children to care for, tired of him being gone for months at a time and, in 1927 in his absence, she accepted the job of director of the Chicago Academy of Sciences, so when he returned from Africa, he wouldn't so easily run off to foreign lands. Thus, the title of this presentation.

Bailey's many honors included an honorary doctor of science (Norwich University, 1944), an honorary doctor of public service (University of Denver, 1954), the Malcolm Glenn Wyer Award for distinguished service in adult education (1961), and the Regis College Civis Princeps Award (1967).

He joined the American Ornithologists Union in 1918 and was made an Elective Member (1930) and Fellow (1941).

But no award made him happier and prouder than the 1971 establishment of The Alfred M. Bailey Bird Nesting Area, north of Silverthorne, Colorado, which the Denver Field Ornithologists promoted to honor his long career that ended with his retirement from the Denver Museum of Natural History in 1969.

The DFO meeting is at 7:30 p.m. in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Ricketson Auditorium. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting.

René O'Connell, image archivist of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and Robert David of Cinema Lab will show Alfred M. Bailey's restored film *New Zealand Highlights* and discuss the preservation and digitization of "dying" film.

Dr. Bailey's daughter Patricia Witherspoon and grandson Jack Murphy will be present.

Tickets will be available at: <http://www.dmns.org/learn/adults/after-hours/new-from-the-bailey-film-series-new-zealand-highlights/>

When: January 19, 2016, 7:00 PM

Where: Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science

62nd Denver Christmas Bird Count – Saturday, December 19, 2015

Count Leader/Compiler: Joey Kellner (303-978-1748), vireo1@comcast.net

Feeder Coordinator: Bob Shade (303-975-2476), wrshade3@gmail.com

Potluck Coordinator: Cheryl Teuton (303-912-3341), Please call her with what dish you can bring.

Compilation (and potluck) meeting: 5:00 pm, Chatfield State Park Headquarters (south side of the lake near the Heronry Overlook); **State Parks vehicle entry pass required**. Please carpool if possible. Ask your Area Leader about Compiler's offer for reimbursement.

All are encouraged to participate in the annual Denver Christmas Bird Count (CBC) sponsored the National Audubon Society. To participate, call one of the Area Leaders listed below to assist in a particular area, or call the Count Compiler (contact info above) if you would like to help in an area that still needs additional observers. After a day in the field, all participants are invited to attend the compilation meeting to feast, warm up, chat with other birders, and find out how the count fared. It is a lot of fun. The compilation meeting will be at 5:00 pm. (see location above). Feel free to bring a dish or desert to share!

Fees: None! So, no excuses! Come have a great time and help count birds! Beginners and experts all welcome!

The 15-mile diameter "count circle" is subdivided into 24 "count areas" each with a leader. Area locations and names and phone numbers of Area Leaders are listed below. Participants should contact Area Leaders for count day meeting times and places.

Area Number and Location	Area Leader	Phone Number
1. Red Rocks Park	Dan Stringer	720-854-5911
2. Lower Bear Creek	Michael Kiessig	303-909-5169
2A. Bear Creek Lake Park	Mark Amershek	303-329-8646
3. Bow Mar/Marston	Chris Rurik	253-225-7104
4A. Lower South Platte - East	Ed Holub	303-979-2194
4B. Lower South Platte - West	Dick Schottler	303-278-8035
5. Highline Ditch	Nancy Crews	303-791-8276
6. Plum Creek	Norm Erthal	303-917-2596
7A. Middle South Platte - West	Charlie Lawrence	303-795-9126
7B. Middle South Platte - East	Urling Kingery	303-814-2723
8. Chatfield State Park	Joey Kellner	303-978-1748
9. Upper South Platte *	Jill Holden	720-288-4018
10. Lower Deer Creek	Steve Stachowiak	303-791-4974
11. Upper Deer Creek	Paul Slingsby	303-422-3728
12. Yegge Peak	Ann Bonnell	303-979-6211
13. Doublehead Mountain	Amy Davis	303-549-7759
14. North Turkey Creek	Larry Modesitt	720-635-6030
15. Indian Hills	Dick Prickett	303-674-0217
16. Upper Bear Creek	Laura Steadman	843-319-5086
17. Ken Caryl Ranch	Tom Bush	303-919-5040
18. Garrison Gate	TBD	
19. Morrison/Willowbrook	Dean Shoup	720-272-9042
20. Willow Creek	Doris Cruze	303-798-8072
21. Mount Lindo/Willow Springs	TBD	

* to participate in this area, you must contact the area leader no later than Monday, December 14th.

Denver Field Ornithologists

OFFICERS

President

Joe Roller 303-204-0828 jroller9@gmail.com

Vice President

Bob Shade 303-975-2476 wrshade3@gmail.com

Treasurer

Mary Geder 303-986-6127 mfg5000@live.com

Secretary

Kay Niyo 303-679-6646 kay@kayniyo.com

Membership Chair

Mary Cay Burger 303-771-3431 mcburger3@juno.com

Past President

Chuck Hundertmark 303-604-0531 chundertmark8@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mark Amershek (2016)	mamershek@msn.com
Will Burt (2018)	willburt43@gmail.com
Mary Driscoll (2016)	wddriscoll@gmail.com
Kristine Haglund (2018)	kahaglund1@aol.com
Candice Johnson (2018)	candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org
Tina Jones (2017)	tjcalliope@hotmail.com
Chris Rurik (2018)	chrisrurik@gmail.com
Ira Sanders (2017)	zroadrunner14@gmail.com
Karen von Saltza (2017)	kvonsaltza@yahoo.com
Lynn Willcockson (2017)	lynnliz2698@aol.com

HISTORIAN

Kristine Haglund 303-906-8044 kahaglund1@aol.com

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULERS

January	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
February	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
March	Bill Wuerthele	303-333-2519
April	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
May	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
June	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
July	Jill Boice	303-863-7580
August	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
September	Mary Geder	303-981-8823
October	Chris Owens	303-772-6048
November	Mary Cay Burger	303-771-3431
December	Jill Boice	303-863-7580

COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Field Trips

Karen von Saltza kvonsaltza@yahoo.com

Grants

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

Nominating

Candice Johnson candice.johnson@childrenscolorado.org

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Communications Director

Will Burt willburt43@gmail.com

Web Administration (<http://dfobirds.org>)

Mary Geder admin@dfobirds.org

Kay Niyo admin@dfobirds.org

The Lark Bunting Editor

Kay Niyo kay@kayniyo.com

The Lark Bunting Designer

Debbie Marshall, Marshall Publishing marshallpublish@gmail.com

LINKS AND CONTACTS

DFO Facebook

Photos and discussion facebook.com/groups/dfobirds

COBirds

Internet bird-sighting discussion list cobirds@googlegroups.com

DMNS Liaison

Jeff Stephenson jstephenson@dmns.org

Tuesday Birders

Mary Keithler mkeithler@yahoo.com

Backup contact, Dave Hill d_d_hill@comcast.net

DFO MEETING LOCATION

Meetings open to public held fourth Monday of each month except May, June, July, and December at the Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Enter in the north side security/employee entrance and tell the guard that you are there for the DFO meeting. Cancellations: check <http://dfobirds.org> or COBirds.

DFO logo by Radeaux

The Lark Bunting

DFO publishes *The Lark Bunting* monthly. Please submit newsletter content by the first of the month to Kay Niyo, editor, kay@kayniyo.com. Contact Kay Niyo with questions or comments: kay@kayniyo.com, 303-679-6646. DFO encourages readers to electronically submit original articles, nature writing, or photos (JPEG [* .jpg]) for *The Lark Bunting*. Please state if the material submitted has been published elsewhere requiring publisher's permission. The editor reserves the right to select suitable articles for publication and to edit any selected articles. © 2015 Denver Field Ornithologists. All Rights Reserved.

Welcome, new members: Corrinne and Joseph Bartell, Green Valley, AZ; Catherine Cormack, Erie; Laurie Duke, Elizabeth; Betty Glass, Littleton; Karen Hochgraf, Denver; Linda Hodges, Colorado Springs; Jean Lindsey, Denver; Jennifer Long, Snowmass; Felice Lyons, Denver; Tracy Pheneger, Longmont; Meg Reck, Aurora; David Rudin, Colorado Springs; Scott Somershoe, Littleton

Upcoming Speakers

**Kris Haglund and
Liz Clancy** Nov. 23
“Won’t You Come
Home, Bill Bailey”

Bill Schmoker
“Birding to the
North Pole” Jan. 25, 2016

**Garth Spellman,
DMNS Curator
of Ornithology**
TBD Feb. 22, 2016

**Chuck Hundertmark
and Bob Stocker**
“Double-crested
Cormorant: Exemplar
of Human/Wildlife
Conflict” Mar. 28, 2016

Denver Field Ornithologists Membership Application

Join online at <http://dfobirds.org>, or by mail.

DFO memberships expire Dec. 31; valid for the next year if paid after Oct. 1.

DFO provides grants to individuals or organizations whose mission includes ornithological research, education, and conservation.

DFO is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ Annual family membership (electronic <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 25
☐ Annual family membership (mailed <i>The Lark Bunting</i>)	\$ 35
☐ Student membership (age ≤ 21)	\$ 5
☐ Research, Education, & Conservation Grant Fund donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____

Email (legible) _____

(Must include for electronic *The Lark Bunting*)

Check payable to DFO and send to Mary Cay Burger, 10826 E Maplewood Pl,
Englewood CO 80111-5742

The Lark Bunting
Denver Field Ornithologists
10826 E. Maplewood Place
Englewood, CO 80111-5742
Featured This Month
Project Puffin
Watercolor to be Auctioned
Denver CBC